WESTERNIMURRAY COUNTY HISTORY

by Robert B. Forrest





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Forrest, Robert B.
A history of western Murray County fom 320 00 5548 DRAWN



A

HISTORY

OF

WESTERN MURRAY COUNTY

from

1688 to December 1946

and

of

LEEDS TOWNSHIP

a typical prairie township

by

Robt. B. Forrest

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PREFACE

This little volume is neither a history nor a novel and has no pretentions as to literary merit, as to style or language. It is a plainly written story of the plain people who settled here in the seventies. What is true about Leeds township is true of every prairie township in western Minnesota. Leeds was chosen for the reason it was settled by nine Scandinavian families, and they have descendants in the township of Leeds or in the townships adjoining.

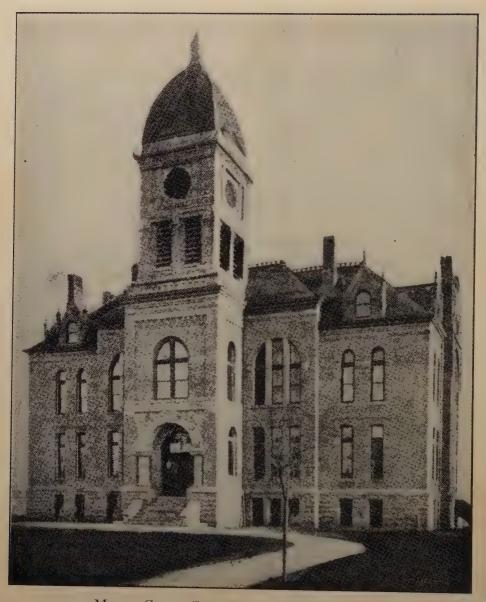
Histories in years gone by referred to this section of the United States as the "Great American Desert." Those early pioneers were pathfinders and doers in the movement which transferred this part of Minnesota from a "Desert" to one of the great agricultural sections of the world.

This is the story of hardy men and brave women—this is the story of men and women who battled against desperate odds to make the undeveloped prairie into a fertile community and to leave a heritage for their sons and daughters and it is to the memory of those pioneers of the '70's that this little volume is sincerely dedicated.

The writer is under obligation to Ed. L. Engebretson of Slayton, through whose persistent insistence this volume came to be written. Also to Jack Berry of Pipestone, whose clever pen and ink sketches of the early days have proved so interesting. We are also under humble obligations to the many friends in the western part of the county who have displayed kindly interest and assistance in the making of this little story.

Sincerely,

Robt. B. Forrest Lake Wilson, Minnesota



Murray County Court House, Slayton, Minnesota Built 1892. Cost \$22,300.00

Officers elect for 1947

Register of Deeds L. C. Christensen Sheriff Geo. L. Nelson Attorney J. T. Schuler	Judge of Probate G. T. Kolander Surveyor Ole Ford Coroner Dr. W. D. Maher Clerk of Court Fred Helweg Supt. of Schools Audrey James
County Com	missioners

1st Dist. Geo. W. Hafner 3rd Dist. Chas. F. Sierk

2nd Dist. H. J. Carlson 4th Dist. J. E. Shirley

5th Dist. Archie McHarg

WESTERN MURRAY COUNTY HISTORY

This area known as Western Murray County was visited by white men in 1688. In that year J. B. Franquilen charted and mapped the Des Moines River as it is now known, as "The R. Des Moingona." He mapped the river to its source and in so doing must have passed through Leeds and other townships as the Beaver Creek is the true source of the Des Moines. Fifteen years later another Frenchman, Guilliaume DeLisle, whose records state, charted and mapped the river to its source. Maps of these explorations still exist in Paris, France.

White men are supposed to have visited this section again in 1701. Le Sueur was investigating the alleged copper deposit in what is now Blue Earth County. Records show that he went on a big buffalo hunt west of the Minnesota River and as this section was a favorite hunting ground, it was assumed that they got their four hundred buffalo along "Buffalo Ridge" first known as "The Coteau Des Prairies."

There was a lapse in Murray County History until 1833 when the American Fur Company built a trading post. The post was named Crooked (Big Sioux) River post by Indian agent Taliaferro. Bailly, agent for the fur company, used that designation but Joe Laframboise who was in charge called it "Grande Lisiere."

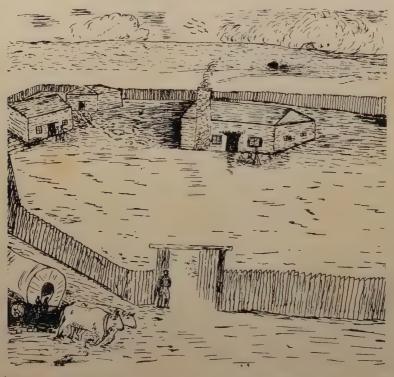
Joseph Laframboise, one of the best known traders during the American Fur Company regime, directed the building of the post which was located east of the Bear Lakes at the isthmus. He remained there as long as the post was in operation. A log cabin served as a store for trade goods and as a warehouse for pelts. Another small cabin was the living quarters of Laframboise and his family. A crude shelter for horses and several small buildings were also built. The two log buildings were surrounded by a high stockade. Voyageurs attached to the post dwelt in lodges near by, with the Indian women they took as wives. Over the stockade flew the flag of the United States, flown to remind the Indians that they owed allegiance to the United States and not to Great Britain.

The Grande Lisiere post was the first civilized habitation in what is now Murray County. More than that, it was the first

store, the first bank, the first hotel and the first postoffice. Not even one building had been built on the site of the future St. Paul or Minneapolis, when Grande Lisiere was built.

The post stood on the NE₄ of Section 10 in Lowville township. You can still find dark yellow clay ash, Indian beads, little pieces of pipestone after a very heavy rain.

The Fur Trading Post at Bear Lake



The American Fur Trading Post was built at Bear Lake in 1833. Charred stumps of the stockade could be seen as late as 1878

Joe Laframboise was a lifelong trapper and trader. He knew every landmark from the Mackinac to the Missouri River.

When Catlin visited this section on the way to the Pipestone Quarries, he stopped at the Laframboise home.

Catlin was 41 years old when he came west. He was the greatest Indian painter of his day as well as a writer and explorer. History credits him with being the first white man to visit the Pipestone Quarries. The soft pipestone, a sample of which he took with him, was named Catlinite in his honor.

While there may have been white men at the quarries and no doubt there were, as independent traders roamed the prairies in defiance of the fur trading posts, Catlin was given the credit.

Nicollet and Lieut. John C. Fremont, who came west with a government expedition in 1838, were also guests at the Laframboise home. This expedition explored the country between the Minnesota River and the Missouri. Of Nicollet Colonel Folwell, Minnesota's great historian, says, "The splendid map of his explorations in the northwest, standing for years of travel, observation and deliberation, will remain his sufficient monument."

John C. Fremont, second in command, was the most colorful of all Americans. He was an engineer when he made his first trip west which was the stepping stone to a most brilliant career in American history until blasted by political and military enemies.

The party was a large one and spent three days at the post. Nicollet who had plenty of time to study the wild fowl and game and the natural beauty of the nearby woods and lake named the Bear Lake, timber "The Great Oasis."

In his travels Nicollet mentions the "Lost Timber." The Sioux called these woods "Tchan-na tambe" which means hidden woods. The French called it "Bois Cache."

Laframboise was comparatively literate. He could write and some of his letters from this post can be found in the records of the Minnesota Historical Society. His contract called for four hundred dollars a year and he was to be charged 12½ per cent above invoice for all goods purchased. As part of the agreement the fur company gave him a blue capote, a fine frock coat, and a pair of fine trousers and vest.

Laframboise left Mendota for the west. He went by the Minnesota River to Traverse des Sioux (St. Peter). His wife

and four voyageurs and he went overland to Grande Lisiere (Bear Lakes). He took eleven horses with him.

There are many letters in the Historical Society from Grande Lisiere. Joe wrote only in French and he used Indians as mail carriers. Here is a translation of one written on Oct. 13, 1833. It was addressed to Bailly, the fur factor.

Monsieur:

This little Indian wishes to go hunting in the spring. I beg of you to give him sixteen rat traps. He has given me at least six hundred fifty rats in a month. His name is Cha-hee-deak, son of Little Fever.

Jos Laframboise

The next letter was sent Feb. 4th, 1834, and was also in French. Translated it reads:

Grande Lisiere, Feb. 4, 1834

Monsieur:

I received your letter of November 15th, and the goods. I had ordered five sacks of wheat, but received only two. I beg of you to send me two horses. I have about eight packs of rats in the warehouse—also sixty otters. Please send me 60 pounds of sugar and one pound of tea. I am sending you a broken pick axe and a hoe to be repaired. I also send you back the box of cartridges—they are too big for my gun. I have sold a three-point blanket to myself for a hundred and twenty rats.

Your friend, Joe Laframboise

Sibley was in charge of the main post at Mendota when the next letter was written.

Grande Lisiere October 26, 1834

Monsieur:

I send you by Humerce (a voyageur) seven thousand, two hundred rats, six sacks and two bales. I have

no more of the red rock (pipestone) because my crow bar is broken. I have no more in my shop. That is all I have made this autumn.

All the Indians have left for the Missouri. Joe Rock is going with them. As you told me to prevent him hunting, it is too bad. He has lost nine of my traps. If you will make him pay, it will do me a great favor. He has killed seven hundred, twenty six rats and five minks. I have found a yoke of oxen on the nearby prairie, monsieur, and no owner has been found for them. I think I shall have to kill them, as they are not worth their keep. They have eaten up all my hay and I must have a man to look after them all the time.

I am sending you Jibeau, as you recommended last summer. He wishes to have one hundred bunches of wampum, a green blanket, a red belt, an ornamental, and a pair of wrist bands. You can give them to him and charge to my account. He has eight hundred rats in my warehouse here. Nothing new to tell you. Please accept the small gift I am sending. I expect to hear news from you.

Your friend, Joe Laframboise

Laframboise was hired the next year at an increase of \$100.00.

The items charged to Laframboise's personal account during the period he was stationed at Grande Lisere are not without interest. So extravagant were his purchases in 1835 that he ended the year owing the company \$130.23. Here are a few things he bought during the year: leggings, French prints, ear bobs, indelible ink, shirts, hose pumps, compass, fancy soap, seidlitz powders, drum of figs, box raisins, loaf sugar, moccasin smoothing iron, frock coat, sperm candles, dried apples, snuffers and a table cover.

The following year Laframboise had a balance due him of \$19.01. During this year he bought a Spanish dagger, carriage whip, dressed dolls and toys, porter, palm leaf hat and a medicine chest, the last costing \$42.00.

The year 1837 was the last year of activity for the Grande Lisiere post. The muskrat market, always discouraging, declined further during the fall of that year. Pelts became almost valueless. Trade at Grande Lisiere post was almost entirely in muskrat pelts, and late in the year Sibley ordered Laframboise to quit the station, move his entire invoice of goods to the Little Rock post on the Minnesota River and serve the balance of his year's contract there. All but three posts, those on the Minnesota, were closed at this time by Sibley in a move to effect economies. "I have withdrawn prairie posts on account of rat prices," Sibley wrote to Crooks on July 2, 1838.

Even if rat prices had not declined in 1837, it is likely that Grande Lisiere post would have been abandoned at that time. Smallpox, always a fatal plague to the Indians, had appeared in the Village at Grande Lisiere, as it had in other villages of the plains. The redmen died in great numbers; in some villages more than half the population was swept away. Because of their diminished numbers, survivors of the plague at Grande Lisiere deemed it prudent to move nearer to the Minnesota River. They feared Sac and Fox warriors would attack their weakened village.

Commercial transactions of the county's first business institution ended on May 21, 1838, when an invoice of \$3211.41 was transferred to the Red Rock post, and pelts to the value of \$1,099.95 were credited upon the American Fur Company books.

Although a trading post was never again established in Murray County by the American Fur Company, representatives of the company continued to trade with the Indians when they made their villages in the area. The removal of the Sac and Fox tribes from Iowa in 1842 permitted Sioux bands to hunt on these prairies without fear of hostile attack, and once more smoke curled from lodges at Grande Lisiere. Laframboise, from a post on the Minnesota, visited the village at intervals. Writing from Little Rock, October 1, 1845, Laframboise advises Sibley "to get a permit for Francois to winter at Grande Lisiere and try to make the Indians stay at that place if there are any means." On November 11, 1845, Laframboise wrote to Sibley, "I arrived from the Grande Lisiere last week. I made a very good trip. I came back with nine packets of rats." Rat pelts were made up

in packs, one thousand pelts to the pack, so Laframboise's receipts for that trip were approximately nine thousand rats. In another letter to Sibley, dated July 30, 1846, Laframboise writes, "I wrote to you about putting Henry Auge at the Grande Lisiere and I am of your opinion. I have not much confidence in him."

Winterers, such as Laframboise advised Sibley to place at Grande Lisiere, did not have trading posts. They were trusted voyageurs sent to an Indian village only for the hunting seasons, and their duty was to keep the hunters industrious so that they would be able to liquidate their credits. Their small stock of goods was made up of necessities for hunting. The winterer lived in a lodge the same as the Indians, though at times a rough log shelter was built.

The Indian population at Grande Lisiere, during the years the trading post was operated there, fluctuated, but ordinarily three hundred and more Indians might be found in lodges in the timber. Wapekutas, Sissetons and Five Lodges, all Sioux Bands, made up the village. Trade at the post was not confined to this village. Indians, who hunted at Lake Shetek, Lake Benton and near the Pipestone Quarry, and in all the territory west to the Big Sioux River, received credits from Laframboise. The trader at the post did not attempt to follow these Indians in their wanderings other than to pay them periodic visits and check the progress of their hunts. Voyageurs attached to the post would at times "assist" the savages in bringing in furs. All business was transacted at the post. Credits extended during the summer and fall were expected to be paid by the end of the spring hunts.

Profits of the Grande Lisiere post contributed to build up the great fortune of the Astor family in New York. In fairness, it must be said that intoxicants were not used at this post to make profits. At some posts of the company whiskey was used to enslave the redmen, but there is no evidence that Joseph Laframboise ever dispensed a drop. Not until the arrival in the late 'fifties of the county's first settlers—the men, a curious combination of farmer-trapper-trader—were Indians in Murray County debauched with liquor.

Profits at the Grande Lisiere post fluctuated sharply, depending on the number of pelts received and the prices credited for the pelts. The post in 1835 paid a profit of \$1,912.02 on a business of \$5,532.24; in 1836 the profit was only \$477.59. Since invoices to the posts were placed high so as to pay a profit, and credits of peltries were placed low enough to make a profit for the Mendota establishment, the true profit of the post was much higher.

Following is an abstract from the American Fur Company ledger account of the post for 1835:

Inventory transferred from 1834 outfit	1,869.99 98.00 408.67	19.00
Peltries: 30, 132 muskrat @ 15½¢ 94 otters @ \$5.00 8 minks @ 2/0 1 raccoon @ 2/0 By inventory to new outfit Profit		4,727.96 470.00 2.00 .30 312.98
An abstract of the "Grande Lisiere Outfit" account of		\$5,532.24
Inventory 1835, plus interest To two horses, \$110; mare, \$55 By Geo. Catlin, Sept. 5 Miscellaneous invoices Invoice per invoice book	\$ 334.89 165.00	20.00
Laframboise account assessment Dumerce's due, \$54.75; J. Bellona's due, \$116.43 Joseph Laframboise salary, \$500; due 2 men, \$330 Sending boat for peltries, proportion By peltries Invoice to new outfit	830.00	43.19 171.18 3,243.43 854.26
Profit		 \$4,332.06

INVOICE -

Taken at the American Fur Trading Post at Bear Lake in 1836

TRADE GOODS ITEMS TAKEN FROM GRANDE LISIERE INVOICES

5	- , , , ,	5/9/7	2	bales rope	I.OO
I	do, $3\frac{1}{2}$ point	17/8	3	window sash	1.00
8	prs. b. c. strouds	23/16/8	20	rat spears	8.00
I	pc. white cotton	2/17/5	1	keg tallow, cwt.	10.00
3	pc. blue cotton	5/14/10	45	lbs. ham	6.97
3	pc. scarlet cloth	16/12/1	I	box soap	1.20
1	doz. scalping knives	3/5	I	keg tar	.38
2	dozen cartouch	5/9	3	pr. oxhide shoes	2.40
1	2 pc. calico	1.80	2	lbs. pepper	.20
2	N. W. guns	11.10	I	stock sack	.63
6	bbls. flour	45.00	I	phial Turlington	.IO
3	bbls, pork	36.50	3	pipe tomahawks	3.75
I	bbl. salt	4.00	6	lbs. cut nails	.60
I	bbl. sugar 243 lbs.	36.45	I 1/	2 lbs. putty	.15
1	keg lard, 54 lbs.	8.33	I	dressed elk skin	2.00
4	o bu. corn	40.00	. 2-	gal. linseed oil	3.50
2	o lbs. coffee	3.60	3	horse collars and harness	7.50
3	bags wheat	3.50	3	lbs. Spanish brown	.30
2	o pigs lead, 1320 lbs.	69.30	2	bales cloths	2.00
1	2 kegs powder	120.00	20	bags	5.00
6	O 1-spring rat traps	60.00	2	boxes	1.50
**9	lbs. vermillion	8.10	1/2	oxhide <	1.50
I	14 lbs. plug tobacco	11.40	I 1/2	dozen horse bells	.50
2	4 panes of glass @ 8¢	1.92	1	tea cannister	.25
I	oil cloth	12.00			

Other items, of which there are too many to list separately, included handkerchiefs, garters, foxtails, feathers, wampum, beads, brooches, ear bobs, imitation jewels, looking glasses, gun flints, lances and combs. The above list includes materials used in building the post.

The research work on the American Fur Company's activities was made by the late Robt. J. Forrest, an only son of the writer. He died in 1935. He was a deep and thorough student of the early fur trade in this section.

^{**} Vermillion was used by war parties and in tribal dances

Early Day County Officials of Murray County, Minnesota



Back Row: George Mumby, Janitor; D. J. McNamara, Treasurer; Dr. W. E. Richardson, Coroner; J. Knutson, Register of Deeds.

A. D. Smith, County Superintendent; Jim Lowe, Sheriff; L. S. Nelson, County Attorney; B. W. Woolstencroft, Judge of Probate; Robt. Hyslon, Clerk of Court; C. H. Woodgate, Deputy Sheriff; Ole Holmen, County Auditor.

Otto Reusse, John Donnelly, A. O. Lunder, J. J. Mihin and S. Barrows, County Commissioners.

Early Days in Western Murray County

By John H. Low

(John H. Low, the first settler in western Murray County, prepared this article over twenty-five years ago. This is the first time it has appeared in print. Mr. Low first visited this section in 1863. He settled here in 1866 and during his lifetime enjoyed the highest esteem of all.)

In November 1863, an expedition of 140 wagons, each drawn by two or three yokes of oxen was sent out from Mankato to carry supplies to Fort Thompson on the Missouri River. Three companies of soldiers were sent by the government as an escort. I was a member of this expedition in the capacity of "bull whacker" (ox teamster).

We entered Murray County in what is now the township of Dovray, by the old government trail as it was called, passing by Long Lake and Buffalo Lake and camped on the east side of the Des Moines River near where the upper dam is now located. This was a little over a year after the Indian outbreak and deserted houses and fields grown to weeds furnished conclusive evidence of the thoroughness of the massacre.

My first impression of the county was not at all favorable. In fact Uncle Sam could not have given me a patent to the whole county if it had been conditioned on my living in the county for five years. Yet it was the same county then, that it is today except for the people and the improvements they have put in it with their own hands. Imagine if you can this county without a single inhabitant, no homes nor even plowed fields—just a sea of prairie dotted with lakes, many of them beautiful and picturesque, others shallow and marshy and not at all beautiful but quite the contrary.

We passed through what are now the townships of Dovray, Murray, Mason, Lowville and Cameron.

In the fall of 1864, I was again a visitor to the county, this time with three others on a trapping expedition. We came in October and remained until the following April and took away with us two thousand dollars worth of furs. During the winter months we were the only living human beings in the county and for three months we never saw a single person outside

our little company. We managed to keep track of the days of the week, but missed on the day of the month by one week. However, all days were alike to us in the work in which we were engaged. Our provisions for this trip were purchased in St. Louis, carried by boat up the Mississippi and Minnesota Rivers to Mankato and from there we hauled them by team. The food consisted of side pork, beans, flour, and coffee. We had no vegetables, no milk, no butter.

In the spring of 1865, about the middle of April, as we were leaving Lake Shetek at the close of the trapping season, there was another party of three young men from Estherville, Iowa, who were preparing to make the trip home in a skiff. They sold us what furs they had and I learned afterwards that they had some difficulty in navigating the river. When they arrived at or near Lake Talcot they concluded to abandon that mode of transportation and having discovered a trapper's shack, they moved their possessions into it. The oldest one then shouldered his pack of blankets and grub and started out for home on foot, where he was to get a team and return for the other boys. The boys in the meantime amused themselves by shooting muskrats. Things went along all right for a day or two, but, one morning before the boys got up, the door was suddenly thrown open and several shots were fired into the shack. The boys sprang out of bed, slammed the door shut and proceeded to dress in short order and get down their shot-guns. About this time, an Indian stuck his face up to the window to reconnoiter and one of the boys snapped his gun at him, but the cap failed to explode and no harm was done - probably a good thing for the boys. The Indians in the meantime had taken cover among the trees back of the santy. The goys now decided on a measure that I would have considered altogether too risky. They took their guns and ammunition and leaving everything else, threw the door open and made a break for the prairie. The maneuver was perfectly successful. The Indians never even fired at them. One of the boys discovered after traveling several miles that he had received a slight flesh wound in the leg, but during the excitement had not noticed it. This is merely an episode of those early days.

It was not until June 1866, that I again returned to Murray County; by this time I had changed my mind about the de-

sirability of land here and forthwith proceeded to take a claim. At this time there were a few hardy pioneers around Lake Shetek, Captain Aldrich and his two sons, Joseph and Clarence; also, Abner Marsh and his son, George. They were seventy miles from New Ulm, the nearest postoffice and trading post, and also the nearest doctor. We were seldom sick and no one died except by accident such as drowning or freezing. When anyone made the trip to New Ulm, he brought back the mail for the whole settlement and usually left it at the home of Captain Aldrich to be called for.

Some of our settlers were in the government employ as scouts and had to report to Uncle Sam now and then as to the activities of the Noble Red Men. This, however, was not generally known and what scouting they did, did not interfere with their usual vocations to any great extent. But, it was only just that they should have had some compensation from the government for taking the lead on the edge of civilization, or rather they had pushed considerably over the edge and were really out in the wilderness.

While religious meetings were the exception rather than the rule, kindness and good will always prevailed. I for one, certainly appreciate the many favors I received from those early settlers during the infant days of the settlement. While we did not always hold the same views on religious, political and other subjects, we never allowed these differences of opinion to cause any coolness in our social relations.

The first factory to operate in Murray County was, I believe, a pipe factory. Three young fellows were sent by the trader at Fort Thompson to get some pipestone pipes. They got a quantity of rock from the Pipestone Quarries and then tinkered up the lathe in an old saw mill on the Des Moines River, that had been abandoned at the time of the massacre. This factory was operated by "one Dutchman power," and that winter turned out a number of pipes which were fitted with native reeds for stems and taken to Fort Thompson and traded to the Indians at the rate of one pipe for two buffalo hides.

Our farming operations as compared with those of today were rather crude. We had only a few pieces of machinery, most of it home made. My first drag was hand made and had wooden teeth. We raised mostly wheat and oats and what little surplus we had was mostly taken up by the new settlers as they came in. In the winter we usually did some trapping which helped us out with what cash we needed for supplies.

In the early '70's we had the grasshopper plague which stayed with us for five years. It would seem to the casual observer that we had enough drawbacks before this pest arrived, but it may be that an all wise Providence was trying us out as Job was tried of old. There were a few, but a very few, that surrendered and left the country. The great majority stuck it out and won the victory. Fur bearing animals and plenty of prairie grass contributed largely to our success. I know of two of the old settlers who, after enduring all the hardships of the grasshopper period and others equally trying for over five years, proved up on their homesteads of 160 acres each and then sold out for two hundred fifty dollars apiece. They were induced to do this, not altogether by their sufferings, but partly by fear of another Indian raid. And while I do not believe that we were in any great danger from that source, still there was a great deal of uneasiness in the settlement, caused by the activities of the Indians farther west.

WESTERN MURRAY COUNTY HISTORY . MURRAY COUNTY, MINNESOTA

Drainage Basins of Western Murray County

There are four drainage systems in western Murray County. The Redwood River system flows through the eastern and northern part of Ellsborough township. Part of the waters that fall on Skandia flow northwest into the Cottonwood River system. Some engineers think this would have been a fine outlet for the Bear Lake waters. The Oksida or Beaver Creek, that drains most of Murray County, combines with the Des Moines River which is a continuation of the Beaver Creek. The Des Moines starts at Currie and the Beaver Creek headwaters come from the ravines just west of the Cameron township line. The Des Moines is a part of the Mississippi River system. In the southwest parts of Chanarambie and Moulton townships, the creeks, Champepadam and Chanarambie, flow into the Rock River and from there finally reach the Missouri.

MURRAY COUNTY

The area that is Murray County has been a part of the domain of foreign nations and it has been subject to the governments of a number of states. France early claimed the western part of the United States because of explorations in that region. In 1762 France ceded the lands west of the Mississippi River to Spain. International difficulties led Spain to return the lands to France in 1801. And Napoleon, in need of money, sold the region to the United States in 1803.

On June 4, 1812, the area was included in the territory of Missouri. It was made a part of the territory of Michigan in 1834. The territory of Iowa included it from 1836 to 1838, when it became a part of the Wisconsin Territory. When the territory of Minnesota was organized in 1849, it was within the boundaries. The area was a part of Wabasha County and a short time later was included in Dakota County. In 1853, when Blue Earth County was established, it became a part of that county. And Brown County, established in 1855, included it in that area. The boundary lines of Murray County established by the legislature in 1857 have enjoyed permanency.

Thus, the county has been claimed by three nations; it has been a part of five territories; and has been a part of four Minnesota counties. And all this before Minnesota became a state.

Murray County, established in 1857, was named after William Pitt Murray, an active leader in Minnesota. He had held many political offices in the state.

Townships were organized as follows:

1872—Holly, Murray, Okcheeda, Center and Shetek.

1873—Skandia, Lake Sarah, Leeds, Lowville, and Lime Lake.

1874—Ellsborough and Bondin.

1878—Des Moines River, Criswell, Stanley.

1879—Lime Stone, Moulton, Dovray.

1880—Anderson.

1886—Fenton.

The townships were named by the county commissioners, but the names were not popular in all the townships and at the first meetings, the voters made the following changes: Center to Slayton, Okcheeda to Mason, Criswell to Belfast, Stanley to Cameron, Lime Stone to Chanarambie, and Anderson to Iona.

WESTERN MURRAY COUNTY HISTORY . MURRAY COUNTY, MINNESOTA

Buffalo Ridge Was First Telegraph Station

Centuries ago, Indians transmitted news of all kinds from the tip of the Buffalo Ridge. A mile south of where the present highway No. 47 is located is the highest point in this section and engineers of the seventies and eighties placed this tip as being about 1950 feet above sea level. Early settlers well remember this particular spot. It seemed to be a favorite meeting place for the Indians. They must have revered the spot as they had created outlines in the prairie sod with small rocks of buffalo, turtles, man, round circles, etc. Cairns of stone were also found, as late as the eighties, on the summit, and down in a ravine not more than a hundred feet down was a spring which at some time furnished the Indians with water. Several buffalo heads have been taken from this spring, which has since become dry.

The tip was also used by the tribes when they wanted to transmit news. Here was built a fire of prairie grass some of which was damp. It was always there and when urgent news arrived the fire was started and when the smoke started getting dark in color two Indians would take a blanket and by covering the smoke and then rapidly withdrawing the blanket, would make dots and dashes. These signals would be understood by the Indians as far as the eye could reach and they would get word of the approach of danger.

This no doubt was the first Morse code known, and probably gave the inventor of the telegraph his inspiration.

WESTERN MURRAY COUNTY HISTORY • MURRAY COUNTY, MINNESOTA

In 1870 there were only 15 farms in Murray County. They contained 2407 acres.

The Story

of

Leeds Township

From

The Year

1872 to 1947

*

*

Murray County, Minnesota

LEEDS TOWNSHIP AND ITS FORMATION.

MEETING OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Currie, Minnesota March 11th, 1873

On this 11th day of March, 1873, a petition is presented to the board, signed by Gilbert Johnson and fourteen other legal voters, bearing date, Feb. 11th, 1873, requesting the county commissioners to organize township 106 Range 42 and to name the same.

The above request is granted and it is hereby ordered and determined that township 106, Range 42 is organized and named "Leedes" and the first town meeting shall be held for said town at the house of Gilbert Johnson in said town on the 31st day of March 1873.

L. D. Bonesteel, Chairman W. H. Mellen John H. Low

The Petitioners were:

Gilbert Johnson, Hans Jacobson, Theodore Knutson, Klaus Klausen, Hans Simonson, Lasarias Thompson, Peter Sakariason, Lauris Johnson, Hans Nilsen, Olus Johnson, Sven Nilson, Herman Nilson, Christian Christianson, Lars O. Solem.

Some Names were Changed in Later Years.

Our readers will perhaps notice there has been a change in the names of many families since they appeared on the petition for organization and the first census taken in 1875. Klausen was changed to Clauson—Peder Sakariasen to Pete Thompson—Lauris Johnson to L. J. Heimness, Jacobsen to Jacobson—Hans Nilsen to Hans Nelson—Olus Johnson to Olaus Johnson—Sven Nilson to Swen Nelson—Christiansen to Christianson.

There were also changes in given names—Viz. Kari became Carrie—Edevant became Edward—Andrias became Andrew, etc.

FIRST CENSUS WAS TAKEN IN JULY 1875

State of Minnesota
County of Murray

I, Gilbert Johnson, Assessor in and for the Town of Leeds, in the said county and state, do solemnly swear that I will and truly cause to be made a just and perfect enumeration of all persons resident within the same town of Leeds and a true return thereof make, in pursuance of the foregoing act, according to the best of my ability, so help me God.

Signed Gilbert Johnson, Assessor

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 28th day of June, A.D. 1875.

Nils Svenson, Justice of the Peace.

Name of the second seco	Birth Place Age
Gilbert Johnson	Norway 37
Anne Maria Johnson	
John Johnson	
Ingebor Johnson	
Engebret Johnson	
Hans Johnson	
Andreas Johnson	
Hans Jacobsen	Minnesota 43
Maguil Jacobsen	Minnesota 50
Anna Hanie Jacobsen	Minnesota 15
Bernt Jacobsen	Minnesota 12
Jacob Jacobsen	Minnesota 18
Karoline Jacobsen	Minnesota 10
Martin Ludvig Jacobsen	
Lyrne Titna Jacobsen	Minnesota 2
Thedor Knutson	Norway 27
Maren Johane Knutson	
Joseph Arol Knutson	Minnesota 4
Valborg Klarine Knutson	Minnesota 1
Klaus Clauson	Norway 41
Anlaug Clauson	Norway 29
Graw Clauson	Norway 12

Name	Birth Place	Age
Gunnhild Clauson	Norway	16
Hans Clauson	Norway	10
Martin Vilhelm Clauson	Minnesota	$1\frac{1}{2}$
Marte Maria Clauson	Minnesota	3
Hans Simonson	Norway	57
Ivni Simonson	Norway	52
Simon Simonson	Norway	24
Iver Simonson	Norway	19
Kari Simonson	Norway	17
Knut Simonson	Norway	15
Tyni Simonson	Minnesota	13
John Simonson	Minnesota	2
Lasarias Thomsen	Norway	66
Peder Sakariasen	Norway	27
Lauris Johnsen	Norway	31
Johana Sophia Johnsen	Norway	29
Anna Johnsen	Minnesota	$3\frac{1}{2}$
Ellen Johnsen	Minnesota	1
Hans Nilsen	Norway	43
Bergta Sophia Nilsen	Norway	39
Hansine Bergeta Nilsen	Norway	15
Ole Frederic Nilsen	Norway	8
Johanes Anton Nilsen	Norway	4
Josephine Nekalisse Nilsen	Minnesota	2
Olus Johnson	Norway	43
Ellen Anna Johnson	Norway	40
Maren Kristin Johnson	Norway	18
Andrias Rekan Johnson	Norway	13
Mattie Johnson	, , , , Iowa	8
Johan Martin Johnson	Iowa	5
Ingebor Anna Johnson	Iowa	3
Kristian Johnson		
Sven Nilson		50
Lisa Nilson		49
Nils Nilson		26
Herman Nilson		24
Usil Nilson	Sweden	16
Christian Christianson	Norway	
Karoline Christianson	Norway	
Thea Martin Christianson	Norway	19

Name	Birth Place	Age
Karen Olive Christianson	Norway	17
Edevant Gunivious Christianson .	Norway	15
Lars O. Solem	Norway	35
Anne O. Solem	Norway	39
Maria O. Solem	Norway	7
Johane O. Solem	Minnesota	5
Martin O. Solem	Minnesota	2
Erick Larson		

THE MEN AND WOMEN OF LEEDS

Most of the early settlers had but little money when they arrived at their new homes; some had just enough to pay the filing fee on their claims. All their worldly belongings and their families came in heavily loaded covered wagons. What wonderful faith they had in themselves!

Early Settler Days



Building a Log Cabin in the summer of 1873

The first homes of many of them were dugouts in the side of a steep hill in a ravine. A number were made in the banks of the Beaver Creek. In the year following, the majority built

sod shanties. Some of the sod shanties or rather sod houses were large enough for a good sized family. The one constructed by Christian Christianson was 16 x 24 and was the largest in western Murray County at that time. This house, like most of the others, was built of three foot strips of tough sod taken from a nearby slough. The sods were laid alternately so the walls were three feet thick. Saplings were cut from the stunted timber along the Beaver for rafters and the rafters were covered with willow brush. The brush was covered with coarse slough hay. Well packed yellow clay covered the hay and provided a roof which was almost rain and snow proof.

The corner posts of the house were Y shaped logs which came from Bear Lake timber. Yellow clay was used for chinking around the door and window frames. The boards for the door and window frames, and the tiny windows had been placed in the bottom of the wagon boxes when they started on the trail towards what was an almost unknown west. Root cellars were a real necessity. They were built in the same manner as the sod houses and some of them had entrances into them from the houses.

One of the necessities, which was easy to get and it was a blessing, was water. Abundant water could be secured on most farms at a depth of from 12 to 16 feet. Some of the early wells were used as they were dug, the top just covered with rough boards or small logs, but a large number of them was curbed with small rocks (nigger heads).

All the barns, or rather sheds, were made by piling straw over a skeleton of saplings and logs. The better ones were covered or thatched by a covering of the wiry slough hay.

Most of the settlers in Leeds township came from Fillmore County, nearly all of them coming from eastern Minnesota. The trip was a long one. Most of them had oxen and the oxen moved slowly with the well laden wagons and, to add to the slowness of the trip, all of them brought some live stock. The boys had the job of driving the stock behind the wagons and some of the lads walked the entire distance between here and Fillmore county. One little realizes what patient, resolute men and women these pioneers were, or the hardships and privations they endured. Here they were 80 miles

Not Searching for Gold but for a Place to Live



Early settlers on their way to new homes in Western Murray County

from a market, and the same distance from a doctor, coffee, sugar and flour. They were not too well blessed with worldly goods and they could not raise crops the first two years for the market. Trapping muskrats and mink kept the settlers supplied with the bare necessities. One family went without sugar or coffee for a whole year. They browned wheat and barley, and ground it in the coffee mill. When the barley and wheat ran out, they cut raw potatoes into small pieces, browned them on top of the stove and then ground them in the old coffee mill, which was the busiest and most important implement about the place.

During the early years of the settlement, the men were forced to leave the community and seek work. Some went to the harvest fields in the eastern part of the state; some went to the railroad tracks which were slowly pushing their way westward and some to the pineries for the winter. (This is what kept the families at home. The men must hold their claims.) Many of the men, carrying groceries, walked forty miles to get back to their little crude homes in Leeds in the spring; some even carried a sack of flour, for they were big, strong, sturdy men, these men of Leeds.

When the settlers had a little land broken up and were ready to raise crops, their hopes were high as they planted the newly turned sod. They looked forward to their first trip to market as the railroads were getting nearer. Their hopes were blasted, however, as hordes of grasshoppers swooped down out of the skies and lit on their crops. In a few hours their entire

crops and gardens were gone. For four years the grasshoppers left the new settlers with only a handful of food. Then the men again had to leave the settlement and seek work.

The entire county was almost bankrupt. There was nothing left. The County Commissioners of Murray County, in the annual fiscal report of 1875, stated—Funds in Treasury—NOTH-ING—\$00.00.

According to the early settlers, Hans Simonson, who arrived in June 1872, was the first settler. The next was Christian Christiansen who arrived in October, the same year. Then came Gilbert Johnson and Theodore Knutson, closely followed by the others. The settlers on the east of the township were located by Pete Peterson, who had settled near Badger Lake the year before and was acquainted with the government survey marks. In the western part of the township, J. H. Low assisted in the work. Peterson later became County Treasurer and Low the County Auditor. B. M. Low, the first surveyor, located many of the settlers.

While most of the settlers "took up" homesteads, some of the new arrivals were compelled to take up tree claims, as they had used their rights in the eastern part of the state before they had the urge to take the westward move.

"THE PRAIRIE MOTHER"

What a wonderful part the prairie mother played in the drama in the development of the new West!

She was the real bulwark of the frontier; she was the first and the last line of defense. She made the homes and made the community. Hard and bitter toil was the price exacted by the virgin soil. Think of the long, long nights she spent alone in the sod shanty or log cabin, listening to the howl of the blizzard and the coyote, with perhaps a sick child lying on a humble tick of straw with no medicine or help available. Just herself and God who soothed and comforted her in the lonely vigil and when death came, as it sometimes did, she struggled over the snow drifts to a nearby neighbor. There were no doctors, no nurses, no cemeteries, no preachers. The neighbor would gather what boards he could find and fashion them into a rough

coffin. With a handful of neighbors, sometimes only the family, a muttered prayer filtered through the bitter cold as the little one started on her last long sleep. And the lonely mother, whose heart was filled with bitter anguish, turned to the humble home not to weep, not to pity herself, but to soothe, ease and comfort the other members of the little family.

And then there was the prairie mother whose husband was away from the little settlement, and in whose ears echoed the cries of the massacred settlers of a bare ten years before, who would turn and see a group of Indians entering the only door in the little home. They would beg for something to eat. They were a shock to the prairie mother, but not a muscle quivered. The same staunch spirit with which she met the hardships of the pioneer life did not forsake her. There was but little argument. If she had, she gave; if not, she would open the door as she would for a stray cat and tell them to go. The bitter winters, while the men were gone to earn groceries for the summer, should have broken the heart and the spirits of the women, but they would not be cowed; there are the two mothers who gave birth to their babies, without the aid of a doctor, midwife, nurse, neighbor or husband, just themselves and that unbreakable spirit.

Her part was hard and bitter, but it was one of love. She made the children's clothes from wool that she had carded and spun. She cooked and baked in a tiny cast iron stove, fired with "buffalo chips" or twists of hay; she took care of the oxen and the cow, no matter how severe the weather, hauling the water from the well with a rope solidly coated with ice. She dug herself out of the house and the stock out of the straw shed after the snowstorms, and in the evening she sewed and knitted with hands wrinkled and swelled by the intense cold, by a tiny coal oil lamp, often with a piece of rag in a saucer of lard.

Life was a stern reality for the pioneer mother, whose faith was in God and how bravely and nobly she met life.

The Indian woman who helped lead an expedition across the Rockies is remembered by statues and monuments in many states. How many have been erected to the memory of the Prairie Mothers whose graves dot the western prairies after a life which was shadowed by more grief and worry than joy?

May they rest in the peace they so richly deserve.

WHAT THE PIONEERS LIVED ON

It was a meager fare those first settlers had in the early days of the settlement of the prairies—fare that few people in any land have had to endure, and, to the descendants of these people, the food that their forebears had to live on will be of interest.

For the first meal of the day, there was bread when they had it; syrup or sorghum when they had it, and coffee when they had it. When these items were not available there was corn meal from the short flint corn. During the winter of 1877, the last of the "grasshopper" years, the settlement was close to starvation. Most of the cattle had been killed for food and the settlers existed mostly on corn meal that was sent out by the State.

For the midday meal there was boiled fish and boiled potatoes and what few vegetables were saved from the grass-hoppers. Navy beans were not grown by the settlers but most of them had a patch of field peas and the peas made good filling material.

Supper was a combination of the above food. There were no pumpkin pies nor any other kinds of pies, no sauce and no preserves. Many homes were compelled to go without cake, pies or cookies for years.

The old milk cow, when it was giving milk, was the foundation of the filled stomach. From her they got milk, cream, butter, cheese, and when a critter broke its leg, there was beef to eat. Cattle were not plentiful. Many of the settlers had only one cow when they came, and when that cow was not giving milk, conditions were really serious. One pioneer told us that they had bought two pounds of butter at six cents a pound from a neighbor, but it was so strong they could not eat it and they were out twelve cents—a lot of money to throw away in those days. No wonder the butter was rancid; a family of eight people was cooped up in a twelve by sixteen sod house, eating,

living, sleeping and doing all the housework. Ventilation was unknown. Every bit of heat was conserved during the winter months.

The tea that we know was unknown to the settlers. They did, however, pick the leaves from a weed known as "wild tea" and brewed it. It was not tea but it helped.

There was no lard to cook with the first two or three years. It seems strange, but remember they were two weeks and some times more on the trail from Fillmore County. Carrying a crate of pigs alongside the covered wagon was unthinkable. Some of the settlers brought salt pork with them and from that supply they were able to get a little fat to cook with and a little lard for the lamps.

There were very few chickens. They had to be brought in small pens attached to the side of the covered wagons and naturally it took some time before the settlers were able to get enough eggs or a chicken to eat.

Breaking Up the Raw Prairie



A sketch of the early settlers turning over the prairie so that a crop of grain could be raised the next year

When the soil had been prepared, there were always plenty of vegetables. They all grew splendidly in the new breaking. Even in the grasshopper days, those dark days that tried the souls of men and women, the settlers were able to save some vegetables. The women took their dresses, nightgowns and everything else they had, including petticoats, to spread on the vegetables to keep off the ravenous grasshoppers.

Fish were always plentiful, especially in the spring and after the heavy June rains. Pickerel, suckers, and buffalo fish were salted down, dried and smoked. (There were no carp here then.) Boiled fish was the main dish on the settlers' table. It did not take much fat and went well with boiled potatoes.

Pete Thompson and L. J. Heimness had a longing for "Lutefisk." They caught a bunch of buffalo fish and pickerel, salted and dried them. Then they made a lye out of woodashes and old fat, tried them out, and the "Lutefisk" was ready for eating, generally with a white gravy. While the Leeds township fish lacked the flavor of the "torsk" of the North Sea, they carried a lot of sentiment and a lot of bones.

Then there was game, when they had powder and shot. There were plenty of prairie chickens, the best eating of all game birds, and lots of ducks. But the settlers were not after such small stuff. Their supply of ammunition was small and they went after the geese, brants and cranes. Food was what they were after.

When there was sugar in later years, there were always wild plums along the creeks; chokecherries, gooseberries, and raspberries in the Bear Lake woods and the banks of the Beaver Creek were purple with the wild grapes in the fall.

Jackrabbits, not cotton tails, were hunted in the winter months. They were great big fellows and kept the pots and pans full of fresh meat.

CHRISTMAS IN THE EARLY SEVENTIES

Christmas was the one big day of the year. It was not observed with rollicking fun and pleasure as we know Christmas. On Christmas Eve the settlers would walk across the crunchy snow to a nearby neighbors where as many as the little home would hold (most of them were 12 by 16) would celebrate. Their observation of the day was deeply religious. They sang the old hymns, then songs of the home lands, songs that brought back memories of fjords and hills, the days of their youth, spent in a land they would never see again. There would be a modest lunch; bread and butter and a little fish or meat

and coffee. Grace was said before the humble repast by one of the elders. How earnestly these sturdy pioneers prayed. They had brought their families thousands of miles to a land of "milk and honey" which in the grasshopper days was turned to a desert. They had need of faith and they had it. When the party was over they would start for their homes under the bright starlight, their hope and faith in God and their new homes renewed.

There were no gaudily decorated Christmas trees, no popcorn, no candy of any kind, no Christmas program and no Santa Claus.

SOCIAL ENTERTAINMENT

The first few years the only social intercourse the settlers had was visiting their neighbors and then as more settlers came in there came family parties, where they played "Come Down this Way with Your Early Wheat" and "King William was King George's son," etc. Then there were also the games with forfeits and even the old postoffice game was a favorite with the youngsters. But these parties were few and far between as a majority of the homes had just room enough for the family.

With the influx of the settlers, came the dances, the old squares and waltzes. The old square dance was always a favorite. Johnny Soules, a dark picturesque looking man with a black goatee, played the fiddle (there were no violins in those days). The rain water barrel had been emptied and upended and Johnny sat on top playing the music, keeping time with his big left toe, calling the changes with a big hunk of chewing tobacco in his mouth, and every once in a while when the dancers were mixed up in a new fangled change, John would come down from his lofty perch and straighten them out.

The dancers and fiddler stopped at midnight for a lunch and then on with the dance until the sun came peeping over the hills to the east. Money was no handicap to the young men as many of them brought muskrat pelts under their coats which were passed over to Johnny for their dance ticket.

The first sit down strike on record took place on the Ingal place, two miles north of the Leeds township line. The Ingals

had a dancing party at their home and invited all the gay blades and the bashful maidens. Some of the boys, inclined to be agitated, got some "Electric Bitters" in a nearby place. The girls, smelling the bitters, refused to dance with the boys and the dance came to a halt. The fellows went into the kitchen and told their tale of woe to the hostess. The hostess, being business-like inclined, had prepared a lavish lunch for those days, and the girls' refusal got her dander up. She went into the room where the dance was to be held, stuck her hands on her hips and delivered an ultimatum. "See here, girls, you either dance or you don't eat." The girls liked to eat as well as the men and the first sit down strike on record ended right then.

Then came the spelling bees that were always a big favorite. They were followed by the debating societies. The settlers met at the neighbors, those that had homes large enough to hold a crowd. Such weighty subjects as "Is single life happier than married life," "Do you get more benefit from education than from experience" were discussed. At times these debates got very personal. These old timers had a lot of pep and zip that they just had to get rid of and the bitterness of several debates lingered for years. In later years came the singing school, when some old guy with a tuning fork would get the use of a schoolhouse, spread the news around that he was going to have a singing school, generally starting off with "Merrily on We Go," a sing song ditty easy to learn and easy to forget. It was more of a meeting place for the young folks than it was for the development of opera stars. School ma'ams and budding young women were always there, a big attraction to the lads both from village and farm; many a budding romance started in the old singing school. Some of the romances ended abruptly and others still last. The fee for a complete musical education was \$2.00 for the term.

There were no planes, no autos, not even top buggies in those days, but youth was youth, just as it is today. Norman Jones who was "going" with Pet Ingalls wanted to attend a dance at the Mike Mihin log cabin. He had the running gear of the wagon, but no wagon box. He did have an old row boat and he mounted that on the running gear and yoked up the oxen. He sat in front prodding the beasts with a pitch fork; no doubt Pet was singing "Pull for the Shore." Anyway they got to

Mike's, danced till morning, then pulled anchor and started for home. Norman lived on the tree claim just south of where Charley Olson lives in Lowville township.

The First Preacher in Western Murray County

The first preacher to hold services in the settlement, was a Reverend Lund, who came in the winter of 1874. He made regular trips, coming every five months from old Westbrook, driving a yoke of oxen attached to a wagon. Naturally services were held at the homes of the settlers until a church was built. A full account of the church activities will be found in another article in this book.

THE FIRST SCHOOLTEACHER IN LEEDS

The first school was held in the winter of 1874, when Miss Ida Peterson went from home to home, spending a week at each place. For this she received one dollar a week and sometimes less. Of course, she had her board.

The first regular school was held south of the Clauson place. This school had perhaps as much variation in ages as any school ever had. The pupils ranged in age from six years to thirty-four years. The Scandinavians craved education and wanted to learn the English language; they did and what wonderful citizens they made! No nation became Americanized as fast as the Norwegians and the Swedes, and history shows that they remained real true, loyal American citizens.

In later years this school house was moved to Hadley, where it was Hadley's first school house and was used until the present one was built. Alex Lowe, with a yoke of oxen, and Ed. Christensen, with a team of horses, did the moving of the building.

LIGHTING

For light during the long winter months, the settlers depended upon coal oil when they could buy it. After that they used the lard from salt pork, placed in a saucer with a little rag in it. The rag was lit and a very small amount of light was had. Very small, but enough to see sometimes to read by. There were no newspapers, but they kept up with their reading by exchanging books with the neighbors.

THE PRAIRIE FIRE

Another menace to the settlers was the prairie fires. They generally came from the southwest, although a few came in on a northwest wind. These fires, terrific as they looked, did not do much damage to the settlers who had made preparations, but the settler who had not taken proper precautions suffered.

For protection, every farm house and barn, and every hay stack, school house and every setting of grain was surrounded by fire-breaks. Around the buildings the fire-breaks were wider than around stacks, etc. The method used was to plow three or four rows about a hundred feet from the stacks and then a hundred feet further out, plow another two or three furrows. The next still day the farmer and his boys would set fire to the grass between the plowed furrows thus making a perfect fire break, except for the tumble weeds which were sometimes carried forward, burning and rolling, by the blast of hot air behind them. Many farmers who were caught on the prairie on the way to town or to the mill, just waited until the prairie fire got near them and set one of their own. After that had started, they drove their team and wagons onto the burned prairie and stayed there until all danger was past.

EARLY FARM IMPLEMENTS

The first farming implements were pretty crude. The settlers brought with them only the real essential tools — the scythe which they used for mowing hay and the cradle, a scythe with a rack on it that was used for harvesting small grain. No corn was planted the first three years. A walking plow or rather a breaking plow was brought by most of the settlers, as it was needed to tear up the tough prairie sod. A section or two of a drag was also brought. These drags had wooden teeth made of oak. Grain, that was cut by hand was bound by hand and threshed by hand. The old fashioned flail was used to thresh the grain which was afterwards thrown high into the wind to get rid of the chaff and short straw. The grain had to be hauled to New Ulm, when there was enough for sale, as the mill at Currie did not start until later.

THE GRASSHOPPER DAYS

The grasshoppers were the worst set-back for the new settlers. These insects arrived in Murray County in 1873, but they were not as damaging as they were in the three years following. They arrived in huge swarms and settled upon the green vegetation. About ten o'clock in the morning they started to fly and about noon they started coming down to the ground. Nothing green escaped them. Wheat fields over four feet high would be bent over with the weight of the grasshoppers. There were from eight to ten grasshoppers on every stalk, and the flint corn fields would have as many as fifty on each stalk. They spared nothing—wheat, flax, potatoes and garden vegetables were bare stalks when night came. Farmers tried roping their grain. They did this by tying horses at each end of a long rope

The Grasshopper Days



The Gloomiest Days in the History of western Murray County. For four years the settlers lost their entire crop. They were ready to give up when the grasshoppers left in 1877

and dragging it over the grain to dislodge the insects. As the hoppers got back from the ground and onto the stalk again, the roping process was continued. In many instances, this method saved a lot of the growing crops.

The grasshoppers left as suddenly as they came, and there has been no grasshopper threat since 1875, except in 1877 when the hoppers formed in great numbers. They were so thick at times that one could not see the sun. They swarmed all forenoon, but did not come down to the ground.

Fur Started the Development of this Section

It was not gold, fertile lands or homes that brought the white men to Murray County. It was fur. England, France and even far off China wanted fur and North America was the most fertile field known in the world.

Just when the first trapper came to this section is not known. The first official visit of the white man was in 1834, when the American Fur Company erected a post at the Bear Lakes. This post was in existence until late in 1838, when war among the Indian tribes and an epidemic of smallpox caused the fur company to discontinue the post.

After the post had been discontinued, adventurous young white men from central Iowa visited this section for several years. They followed the Des Moines to Lake Shetek, then westward over Poverty Hill. They came early in the fall, built a log house, put up sheds for their horses and cut hay for feed. They spent the entire winter trapping beaver, coon, mink and taking fifty thousand muskrats. Seems like a lot of rats yet there were men living here who took out nearly twenty thousand in a winter. While the fur supply had dwindled in the 1870's, there was enough left so the prairie settlers found in fur the main source to keep them alive. Fur was not always cheap as muskrats brought as high as twenty cents sometimes, and that was real money in the early days.

EARLY FUEL

The first fuel of the settlers was "Buffalo Chips," and many a voungster became tired roaming the prairies for them. When summer came, the scythes came out and the tall grass was cut and allowed to dry and for years twisted hay was the sole fuel in many a home. Some of the old settlers said it kept the sod houses nice and warm; others said one cooked on one side and froze on the other on very cold days. It was almost a continuous job shoving the twist of hay into the tiny stove, as on a real windy day, it went up the chimney almost as fast as one put it in the stove. With the coming of flax straw, many thought there would be an improvement in the heating conditions. Flax stoves were on the market. They consisted of an iron stove with a large circular hole in the top. This hole was covered by a huge round sheet-iron tank. This tank was taken to the flax straw pile and stuffed full of straw as hard as it could be packed. It was then carried into the house and slipped upside down on the hole in the stove and the other tank was taken out for re-filling. The heat from the flax straw was immense, and the odor was also. You could always tell what kind of fuel the settlers were burning by the odor on their clothes.

Wood was also used. Some of the settlers bought an acre of timber in Bear Lake and some "acquired" firewood from Lost Timber, until Doc Folsom took it for a homestead.

Coal came in with the railroad in '79, but this did not stop the burning of hay, flax straw, etc. Coal meant money, something the settlers were not too flush with. Hay and flax straw were still used as late as the 1900's.

The Red Men Were Still Here in the '70's

There were plenty of Indians in western Murray County in the early seventies. They were far from warlike and were more inclined to beg for something to eat than to do any fighting. They did do some petty pilfering but were different from the tribes of 1862. The sound beating administered to the Indians after the massacre of 1862 had taken all the fight out of them.

The Indians were roving bands from the Dakota prairies and in western Murray County would pitch their tepees and



An Indian Village at Hadley Lake in 1874. Ed Christensen played here with the Indian boys. This village was on the same piece of ground where the Hadley Creamery now stands

wigwams in Bear Lake timber or around the lakes and on the banks of Summit Lake. They camped there on the same spot where the Hadley Creamery now stands. The Buffalo ridge was a favorite spot for many bands.

The tepees and the wigwams were made of buffalo hides. Some of the wigwams were large enough for two or three families and the settlers' sons used to visit the Indian youngsters and play with them. One of the boys now living, who used to play with the Indian kids at the Hadley Lake is Ed. Christensen.

The Indians trapped, hunted and fished. The pelts they took were generally sold at the Lowville postoffice store on the west side of Bear Lake.

They picked up everything that was loose and often things that were tied. Mrs. Theo. Knutson looked out of her little window one morning and saw that her cow had disappeared during the night. Her husband was away working on the rail-

road, so she awoke the children and with them started for the Hadley Lake. She saw her cow tied to a stake in front of a wigwam. She untied the cow in front of the bunch of Indians, put the rope over her shoulder and started for home with the children trailing behind. Those pioneer women were made of stern stuff.

WHAT THE SETTLERS WORE

All the clothes were homemade. Cloth was bought when the settlers made a trip to New Ulm and made into garments. It took two yards and a half to make a pair of pants for those husky Scandinavians. The men wore ready made "Scotch" caps. They were high in the crown and, when the cold weather came, they pulled them down over their ears. Shirts for the men, like everything else, were hand made. There were no neckties and there were no white shirts. The long woolen sox were hand knit at home. Nearly every home had a spinning wheel.

The women also wore homemade garments. Garments were cut from prints and fashioned into dresses, aprons, petticoats, etc. They had hats for the summer which they had brought with them from Fillmore County and in the winter months they wore shawls and scarfs.

Sheep were a necessity. They supplied wool for the clothing after it was carded, spun, and knitted. The pelts of the sheep were the only blankets many a family had during the winter months. A settler down near Badger Lake, who had been a tailor in the old country, sewed them together and then trimmed the wool down so that it would not be so itchy.

Shoes were scarce articles, especially for the children who went barefoot from the time the snow left in the spring until real cold weather came in the fall. The girls who did a lot of the herding of the cattle, were compelled to wear their Dads' old shoes, which were full of holes, when conditions were real bad. The late John G. Johnson, in one of the early winters, had a pair of shoes or rather foot coverings from the hide from the knee joint of a heifer. They sewed up one end and had a piece shaped like a shoe. Holes were cut in the hide for the raw hide shoe laces to keep it as snug to the foot as possible and another

problem was solved. Some of the youngsters in the township wore wooden shoes.

How they ever endured the winters was a mystery! There was not a pair of overshoes in the entire settlement. The men wore heavy boots with heavy wool socks and so did the women. The children wore whatever they could get. The winters were mighty long; yet the old residents will tell you there was less sickness than there is today.

One of, if not the most important part of the women's list of apparel was the sun bonnet. They wore it in the spring, summer and fall. Some of them were re-inforced with cardboard and no woman would be seen out of doors without one. They were deep affairs, some of the young fellows said. They knew the girls wore them to keep their complexions from getting tanned.

THE EARLY HARVESTS

The first wheat of record was planted by C. Christensen in 1873. He broke up about five acres of prairie and sowed it to wheat. The wheat was cut by hand, bound by hand, and, after being in the stack for a while, was threshed by hand. Mr. Christensen used the flail. He was an expert flail maker and supplied many of the settlers. In two or three years, a machine, from the eastern part of the County, came up and did the threshing. It was a horse power outfit. Six teams of horses attached to sweeps would circle the big bull wheel, which supplied the power to the tumbling rods, and from there to the separator. The driver stood on a platform above the bull wheel and, with a long handled whip, saw that a steady motion was maintained. It took a lot of men for the horse power outfits.

There were the driver, two separator men, four pitchers, two band cutters who cut the bands on the bundles of grain, a man who measured the threshed grain in half bushel measures, a sack holder, from two to four men in the strawstack, two grain haulers, and two men in the granary. The horse power machines would thresh about 1500 bushels in a day and what long days some of them were! When steam power came in, the amount of help was reduced and the output upped to over 4,500 bushels a day.

The threshing season was the big event of the year for the farmers' wives. Feeding a crew of that size in limited quarters was a real job and what wonderful meals they produced: Breakfast consisted of either oatmeal, (that is in the 80's) or corn mush, boiled potatoes, ham and eggs or steak and eggs, and they finished up with a stack of pancakes with syrup, not the maple kind, but the thick heavy sweetening and gallons of Arbuckles coffee.

THE SOD SHANTY ON THE CLAIM

The housing shortage held no terrors for the early settlers in the prairie section of western Minnesota. These men and women, when they reached their claim, took the plow from the wagon, hitched the oxen to it and started breaking up the virgin sod.

There was only one door and one window in most of the sod houses in this section of Murray County. Both the window and the door were small, as the total size of the shanty was 12x14.

The furniture was crude. Nail kegs and boxes and, most of the time, benches were used for chairs.

The beds were home-made and some had wooden slats across the frame. On the slats were placed ticks filled with prairie hay, straw and later on, corn husks. Others had ropes across the frames in place of the wooden slats. The beds were made high enough so that trundle beds for the children could be pushed under them and most of the settlers needed the trundle beds. In many homes, two trundle beds were used and then some of the older children slept on a tick on the earthen floor. There were no wooden floors and keeping the floor clean during wet weather was a bigger problem than the housewives have in these later years. In dry weather, the earthen floor was as hard as a rock. The home was heated by a small cast-iron stove. The tables were home-made, as was every other article of furniture. There were very few dishes and the younger element had to wait at every meal until the elders had finished. What was true of the dishes was also true of the linens, blankets and cooking utensils. One little light sufficed for the whole house. Life was a stern reality to those men and women who built western Murray County.

The Sod House



There were hundreds of Sod Houses in Murray County during the Pioneer Days.

They were cheap and afforded some protection from the blasts of winter and
the hot summer winds

The bitter cold winds during the blizzards seeped into many a sod shanty. Mrs. John G. Johnson, told of one of the many incidents that accompany pioneer life. During one storm the cold was so intense that they took the bed clothes from the bed, wrapped them around themselves and huddled around the

stove, trying to keep warm. The father was busy poking wisps of hay into the little stove. The howling wind would take the wisps of hay up the chimney in a flash. The roof of the sod shanty caught on fire and the boys crawled on the roof in the storm and put out the fire with water and snow. Some of the water went down the chimney and the fire in the stove went out. These were the days or rather nights that tried their souls. "How did you ever stand it?" we asked Mrs. Johnson. She answered, "We just had to."

The late Tom Gunderson of Leeds, when a young man, went to the pineries to make a little money during the winter months. Four of the young men started for home early to get their crops in. They got as far as St. Paul, held a council and decided to build a big hand sled. On it they put their blankets, cooking utensils and groceries. They wanted to save all the money they could. They got about 75 miles from St. Paul tugging their sled along when they heard a train whistle. They ran for their lives. The snow plow tossed everything they had into the air and the only thing saved was the pancake griddle, which is a real relic on the old Gunderson place today.

FARMERS HAD ASSORTED POWER

Oxen and horses did not furnish all the power on the farm. Even when they were on their way to Murray County, the settlers were forced to yoke up the milk cows when the oxen had sore feet or were played out. Mules were used also. There were not many of them here. It was no unusual sight to see an ox, a horse and a mule hitched to the plow or other implement.

SETTLERS PAID A HIGH PRICE FOR MONEY

The inability to get money to sustain life and buy machinery and livestock was almost as much of a handicap to the newcomers as the blizzards and the grasshoppers. Some of the banks took advantage of the almost penniless conditions of some of the settlers. Twenty per cent interest was the common everyday rate and often thirty per cent. Settlers, in need of small amounts, would sometimes walk to a farmer who lived near Tracy.

This man had about \$500.00 and he let it out in small driblets running from \$5.00 to \$25.00. The periods for the loans were short, but the rate of interest was high. His rate was fifty per cent and some of the poor devils, when they got \$10.00, had to return \$20.00.

GAME WAS ABUNDANT

Game of all kinds was to be had at any time of the year and the amount of game in this section, even as late as the '80's, would be hard for the present generation to believe.

There were deer, elk, and antelope in the '70's, but no buffalo. There were also lynx, badger, raccoon, mink, skunk, weasels, muskrats and occasionally an otter. There were plenty of jack rabbits and cotton tails. The settlers found the jack rabbits good eating, but today no one will eat them. For feathered game, there were cranes; yes, we even ate cranes and they were not bad eating. Geese, brants, ducks and plenty of snipes and plovers abounded. In the '80's, prairie chickens and ducks were shot for the market. What lingers longest in the memories of the old residents is the fall flight of the water fowl. Day after day, in the long, clear days in the fall, the birds would come down from the northland, winging their way to their winter home in the south. Long, serried lines of honking Canadian geese, cackling brants and huge flocks of ducks would whirr through the air. Especially towards sunset would the display be interesting. On they came, flock after flock. The whish, whish, of their wings and the tiny, shrill peeps of the younger ducks left memories, hard to erase from the memories of the early prairie settlers.

THE WINTER OF 1880-1881

There were many severe storms during the winter months, but the winter of '80-81 was the outstanding one in the memories of the old settlers.

Snow commenced falling in the evening and for two days following, the storm increased with increased severity. Snow drifts in places were twenty feet high and about four feet on the level ground. Farmers were unable to get to their stock



Coming through the drifts in the winter of 1909



Snow plows stuck in the huge drifts, and the big rotary snow plow came up from St. James. It was a real attraction and always had a lot of spectators.

for thirty-six hours and some had to wait forty-eight hours before they could get to their live stock. There were only ten houses in Leeds township at the time and the settlers suffered severely from lack of food and fuel. Feed for the stock meant hours of snow digging as some hay stacks were covered by six to ten feet of snow. Lars Solem, who was using flax straw for fuel, tugged a hand sled for two miles with a large canister on it to the James Lowe, Sr. farm.

He dug down in the snow until he struck the top of the flax straw stack and filled his huge can, and then started for home with his one day's supply of fuel. Stock disappeared and they were found on top of hay stacks where the men had dug out the snow.

Coming so early in the winter, farmers were unable to get to the mill and were forced to grind wheat in the coffee mill during the entire winter. The railroad, which had been built as far as Woodstock the year before, was hard hit by the storm. The rails were light and the track new so the big plows could not be used. After spasmodic efforts with plows and shovelers, the railroad company suspended operations in February, owing to continued snow falls. All train service was suspended until April 29th, 1881, when the train brought much needed supplies.

Currie was the nearest town with a flour mill and many of the men walked through the deep snow with a pack containing wheat and brought back flour. Bill Lowe and Jack Sheppard took turns in hauling a handsled to Currie with a sack of wheat. They had it ground in a feed mill, as there was no flour mill in operation at that time. These are just some of the instances which illustrate the severity of the winter months. Settlers wore home-made snow shoes and skis. Old timers, when they got reminiscent of the bad winters, always looked back to the winter of 1880-81 as the winter of the "Big Snow."

With the coming of spring, the whole country was covered with water. The old Beaver Creek overflowed its banks—in fact it had no banks. Alex Lowe tried to get across with a couple of plow lays, but the creek was so wide it was impossible. John G. Johnson, who saw him, got a boat and took him across. That was on May 2nd, and not a kernel of grain had been sown at that time.

LEEDS HOLDS FIRST TOWNSHIP ELECTION

Town of Leeds, County of Murray, State of Minnesota

The first annual election was held in the town of Leeds at the house of Gilbert Johnson on the 6th day of April, 1873. Gilbert Johnson was elected moderator for the said meeting.

The meeting was called to order by Moderator and the following names received the numbers of votes:

or supervisor:	Nels Svenson, Chr. Christian Christianson Peter Thompson	16	votes
Town Clerk	Herman Nelson		
Assessor	Sven Nelson	16	votes
Treasurer	Gilbert Johnson	16	votes
Justice of	L. O. Solem	16	votes
the Peace	Simon Hanson	16	votes
Constable	John Peterson	16	votes
	Claus Clausen	16	votes

The next annual town meeting was ordered to be held at the house of Hans Simonson.

On motion by G. Johnson the following by-laws was adopted, yeas 12, noes 4. It is hereby ordered and determined that it shall be law for Cattle to run at large in town of Leeds in the day time from the 15th of April, to the 15th day of October.

On motion the meeting adjourned without day.

H. Nelson Clerks
S. Hanson Clerks
Pete Thompson

Nels Svenson
C. Christianson
Pete Thompson

The next meeting was held in March, 1875, and at this meeting the only problem for the voters was the herd law. L. J. Heimness made a motion as follows: "It is ordered determined that it shall be lawful for all kinds of stock to run at large from Apr. 15th to Sept. 15th." The vote was nine votes for the motion and four against it. Elected that year were G. Johnson, C. Christianson, Sven Nelson, for supervisors. Herman Nelson, town clerk; L. J. Heimness, assessor; Theodore Knutson, treasurer, each receiving 13 votes.

At the town meeting of 1880 the voters went into the taxing business. Here is the exact reading of the minutes, which are not too clear: "The following items was voted for by motion: Town tax 5 mills, Road tax \$50.00. The town was divided into two road districts 3 miles wide and six miles long, north and south. Simon Hanson and Pete Hoye were chosen road masters. "Every man shall herd his cattel from the 1st of June to the 15th day of October." Two changes made at the election were Herman Nelson, chairman and J. H. Jacobson, assessor.

LEEDS TOWNSHIP IN 1946

This is one of the most progressive townships in Murray County. Every farmer in the township has access to a gravel road. There are thirty-five miles of township graveled roads and this season twenty miles were re-graveled. Every mile of graded road is graveled. 25 years ago the township was in debt \$12,000.00, all of the debt being incurred about thirty years ago building bridges during the ditching era. Today, November 1946, the township owes nothing. To the members of the township board goes a lot of praise for their business-like administration. They have performed a real service. The present members of the board are Wm. Stofferan who has served 30 years, G. M. Skouge 9 years, G. Conradi 2 years, and Fred Gass who has served 20 years. Hadley is part of the township of Leeds. While the village votes as a village on municipal affairs, it votes at all township, county, state and national elections with the township.

WESTERN MURRAY COUNTY HISTORY . MURRAY COUNTY, MINNESOTA

Back in the '80's they took their politics more seriously than we do now. In campaigns they wore big campaign hats, colored gray. They were higher than a stiff hat. The Democrats had a wider band of black but both parties took a lot of pride in them. The torch light parade was the thing in those days. A hundred boys and young men (hired at times) formed the "huge torch parade." They carried the torch and wore oil-cloth capes. It was a "must" for the big political gathering.

HISTORY OF THE HADLEY STUDY CLUB

On November 28, 1922, twelve women gathered at the home of Margaret Fresk to organize what they named the Political Study Club. Those present were: Margaret Fresk, Anna Wornson, Florence Nippert, Ovidia Lowe, Viola Knutson, Anna Chapman, Edith Dahlquist, Rebecca Holmberg, Jessie Reed, Jennie Smith, Violet Engebretson, and Walborg Satter. Of these charter members, four remain in the club today, namely: Margaret Fresk, Anna Wornson, Viola Knutson, and Violet Engebretson.

As its name implies, the purpose of the club was to study the political development of the nation. Some of the topics were: Muscle Shoals, St. Lawrence Waterway, National Farm Credits, and the Election of the President by the Direct Vote of the People. It is interesting to note that these topics are subjects of much discussion today.

The first officers of the club were: President, Margaret Fresk, and Secretary, Edith Dahlquist. Twelve meetings were held at the homes of the members and a special meeting at which the husbands of the members were entertained.

The second year the name was changed to Hadley Study Club and it became a member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs. The subjects of study since then have been general in character and have included book reviews, biographies, histories, and customs of foreign peoples, child psychology, geography, current events, bits of humor, literature, art, and problems of modern living.

The club members have given entertainments, sold recipe books, and acted as reporters of the Hadley news of the Murray County Herald. These activities, together with their annual dues, have enabled them to participate in many social, civic, and charitable projects. They have contributed to the upkeep of the local cemetery, to the Hadley band, to the Salvation Army, to the Red Cross, to the U. S. O., to the National Relief and Refugee Committee, to the Indian School at Pipestone, to the Federation Forest Fund, and have sponsored essay and flower contests in the Hadley schools. During the late war they sent layettes to Norwegian mothers, subscribed to the clothing

drive, and gave playing cards and homemade cookies to the hospitalized soldiers. The club has established and maintained a small library of worthwhile books.

Past Presidents of the Club are: Margaret Fresk, Anna Wornson, Ovidia Lowe, Rebecca Holmberg, Edith Dahlquist, Effic Tyler, Winifred Gillette, Elizabeth Bishir, Loraine Brown, Viola Knutson, Lenore Ruppert, and Thelma Peterson.

The officers for the coming year are: President, Mildred Wornson; Vice President, Pauline Earhart; Secretary-Treasurer, Ada Swan; Pianist, Lydia Peterson; Assistant Pianist, Jane Paulson; Song Leader, Eloise Crissinger; Librarian, Mary Johnson; Historian, Pauline Earhart.

The club has twenty-four active members at present. There are four honorary members: Elizabeth Bishir, Edith Dahlquist, Agnes Engebretson, and Winifred Gillette.

Early History of the Ladies Aid of the Hadley Lutheran Church

In 1874 the women of the Lutheran Church met at the home of Mrs. Hans Jacobson and organized a Ladies' Aid Society. There was no church but an organization was effected in 1874 called the Beaver Creek Congregation. Services were conducted in the early homes by Rev. Lund of Old Westbrook in Cottonwood who often made the thirty mile trip by oxen. The houses were small and there was often not much room left in the little sod houses and log cabins.

Present at the first organization were: Mrs. Ole Wornson, Mrs. Hans Simonson, Mrs. Iver Peterson, Mrs. Lars Solem, Mrs. Gilbert Johnson, Mrs. Hans Jacobson, Mrs. Theo. Knutson, and Mrs. Christianson. The Aid was organized for the purpose of aiding the church.

The women were kept busy sewing and knitting. All the work was done by hand and there was no fancy work. Men's shirts, stockings, and ladies' aprons and other necessary articles were made. A sale was held later, but money was scarce and the women had such a hard time selling the goods that they discontinued their meetings for awhile.

The Aid was reorganized in 1893 at the John J. Johnson home by Rev. Tosdal. Meetings were conducted in the Norwegian language. The dues were 10 cents a meeting, whether members were present or absent. The ladies sold fancy work, sewed, made quilts, had ice cream and basket socials. The proceeds went to mission work and aiding the church.

This organization held until 1903. The Aid was reorganized again (the present Aid) by Rev. Bergsaker and in 1907-08 raised \$487.

The church was remodeled in 1923 and the basement was enlarged, etc. All of this was paid for by the Aid.

In 1923 forty members joined the W. M. F. That same year the men started giving waffle suppers. Rev. Vordale was pastor at that time. In 1926 the Aid sponsored and organized the cemetery and paid the expenses.

The 50th anniversary of the church was celebrated in 1929. The former pastors who attended were: Rev. O. J. Hagen, Rev. A. J. Bergsaker, Rev. Olav Linn, Rev. R. M. Vordale and Rev. Gustenson.

Rev. A. M. Nelson was the pastor from 1932 to 1943. He was succeeded by Rev. M. D. Hinderlie.

The two following incidents aptly illustrate the unselfish part that the women of Leeds township have played, not only in their homes and the community, but in their intense loyalty to their church.

"In 1930 the Aid was again called upon to pay. This time it was a note at the bank for \$350.11 for those who subscribed to the building fund and were unable to pay."

"In 1933 it became necessary for the Aid to give all necessary help to the congregation. We contributed \$380.00." These notes were taken from histories of the Ladies' Aid Association compiled by Mrs. O. C. Wornson and the late Mrs. Alex Lowe.

THE HADLEY LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Hadley Lutheran Church is a branch of the Norwegian Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church which was

organized by Rev. Lund of Old Westbrook, the first pastor, Sept. 6, 1873. It was popularly known as the Beaver Creek Church. It served a large territory taking in all the territory between Lake Shetek on the north, six miles east of Slayton on the east, west as far as Ellsborough Township and south and west including the territory around what is now Lake Wilson and Chandler. From official papers, Leeds Township was the foundation of the Lutheran Church in Murray County.

The territory served was so large that in 1879 the parish was divided. The church then went by the name of Beaver Creek Norwegian Evangelical Church. The first officers were: Deacons, Ole Wornson, G. Johnson, Peter Peterson and Lars Solem; Trustees, L. J. Heimness, Jacobson and Theo. Knutson; Secy., Peter Peterson; Treasurer, H. Jacobson. The first church was built in 1881, the second church in 1908 and in 1923 the present church was built.

The charter members of the original church were: Iver Peterson, Erik Stubboe, Benjamin Olson, Amund Olson, Ole Wornson, Lars Solem, Sven Nelson, Nils Sveinson, Gilbert Johnson, Hans Simonson, Hans Jacobson, Sacarias Thomson, Peter Sacriason, Christian Christianson, Tore Olson, Claus Clauson, Theo. Knutson, Lars Glarum, Tonnes Tonneson, Ingebret Rolfson, Andreas Gufarson, Ole Olson, C. Tonneson, Nils Grielson, Heming Sveinson, John Erickson and Christoffer Larson.

On January 1, 1947, the congregation had a membership of 270 souls. It is united in a parish with Lake Wilson Lutheran Church and Trinity Lutheran Church, Chandler, and served by the Rev. M. D. Hinderlie, who resides at Lake Wilson.

Membership of the Hadley Lutheran Church (May 8, 1946)

Mr. & Mrs. Albert Amundson & f

Mr. & Mrs. Oscar Anderson & f

Mr. & Mrs. Oscar Benson & f

Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Berg

Mr. & Mrs. Oscar Brown & f.

Mr. & Mrs. Carl O. Clauson

Mr. Clarence Berg (Sl)

Mr. Ed Christianson

Mr. & Mrs. Wm. J. Clauson & f

Mr. & Mrs. Howard Clauson & f

Willard Clauson

Mr. & Mrs. Maynard Deden

Mrs. Henry Deden (Madison Home)

Mr. & Mrs. B. O. Clauson

Mr. & Mrs. Archie Engebretson & f Mrs. Lena Olson Mrs. Carrie Engebretson Mr. & Mrs. Ole K. Olson, Paul Mrs. Charles Erickson Mr. & Mrs. Ole D. Olson Mr. & Mrs. William Fresk Mrs. Robert Payton Mr. & Mrs. Albert Holmberg, Re-Mrs. Robert Keller becca Mrs. Harold Hendrickson Mr. & Mrs. R. G. Gamble & f Mr. & Mrs. Charles Paige Mr. & Mrs. Harry Jacobson & f Gordon Paige Mrs. Mary Jacobson Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Paige Mr. Gullick Gunderson Mr. & Mrs. George Paulson, Wayne Mr. T. Palmer Mr. & Mrs. Willard Paulson & f Mr. & Mrs. Gordon Payton & f Mr. Jewell Bjorkman Mr. & Mrs. Delbert Peterson & f Mrs. Inez Grieser & f Mr. A. R. Johnson Mr. & Mrs. Bert Sandberg & f Mr. & Mrs. Karl Johansen, Elcanor Mr. & Mrs. G. M. Skouge Mr. & Mrs. Harold Sorenson Mr. & Mrs. Allen Johnson Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Johnson & f Mr. James Sande Mr. Andrew G. Johnson, Avery Mr. & Mrs. Ole Solem & f Mr. & Mrs. Lester Solem & f Mr. & Mrs. Carl G. Johnson & f Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Johnson & f Mrs. Ralph Swarm Mr. & Mrs. Cory Tims & f Mr. & Mrs. Herbert Johnson, Mar-Arthur, Buster, James, Bonjamin, William Tims Mr. & Mrs. Leon Johnson & f Mrs. Serena Johnson Mr. & Mrs. Ben Toft & f Mr. & Mrs. Leslie Wagley & f Mrs. John G. Johnson Mr. & Mrs. Richard Johnson & f Mr. Nels Wagley Mr. Gilman Strom Mr. Oscar Johnson Mr. & Mrs. Edor Johnson Mr. Allen Smith Mr. & Mrs. Harry Webber Mrs. Mary Kadolph Mr. & Mrs. Harris Wornson & f Mr. & Mrs. J. D. Knutson & f Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Wornson & f Mr. & Mrs. Olaf C. Wornson Mr. & Mrs. Jacob Matson, Olaf Mrs. J. A. Knutson Mr. & Mrs. Charles Lukens Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Zinnel & f Mr. & Mrs. Leonard Schuster Mr. Bert Ohme Joyce Herding Mr. & Mrs. Albert Olson & f Mr. & Mrs. Glenn Olson & f Miss Julia Wornson Mrs. Melford McVenes, Dennis Mr. & Mrs. Verne Johnson and Mr. Austin Olson Mr. & Mrs. Leon Olson & f Ronald

Early History of the Village of Hadley

Mr. Lloyd Olson

The village of Hadley, which is located in Leeds Township, originally known as Summitt Lake, was started in 1879the same year the Omaha branch was graded from Heron Lake to Woodstock.

The first general store was erected the same year by L. Lucason. The first hardware man was O. M. Olson, who built a

The Coming of the Railroad



The Woodstock branch of the Omaha was built during 1879-1880. A sketch of the first train up the branch. The railroad was extended to Pipestone five years later

store the same year. The first lumber yard was managed by J. Sipple. Dr. Thos. Lowe was the first and only doctor to practice medicine in the village of Hadley. L. Bryan was the first depot agent and he bought grain as a side line. Hadley had the first brass band to toot a horn in Murray County. The first blacksmith was A. C. Dale who in after years moved to Lake Wilson. Hadley at one time supported a good drug store. The druggist's name was P. Chase. He was also postmaster here for a number of years. In spite of the many changes Hadley has the largest co-operative creamery in this section of the state.

THE HADLEY BASEBALL TEAM

The Hadley baseball team has a record that is not surpassed by any village in the state of Minnesota.

Baseball started in Hadley in 1882 and ever since that year there has been a baseball team—a real record.

The first baseball team consisted of Dave, Tom, Bill, Jack and Alex Lowe, Ed Sardeson, Ben Stine, Andy Hoye and Bill Forsaith and a mighty team of sluggers they were. Baseball masks, catchers mitts and pads were unknown. At the county fair one year, the Hadley boys beat their opponents 56 to 7.

At one fair date, the team played a picked team from the county. There was a 2nd baseman on the county team that was over aggressive. Andy Hoye was full of pep and somehow jolted the 2nd baseman and the result was a broken leg for the 2nd baseman. The purse offered by the fair board was \$25.00 and the cost of setting the leg was \$25.00, so the Hadley team broke even, and they won the game.

Here is the team that played Lake Wilson, June 30th, 1903: A. Fresk, 2nd base; Oscar Fresk, right; Dony Knutson, 3rd; Fredstrom, Catcher; C. Johnson, center; St. John, left; Trig Knutson, S. S.; Wm. Fresk, pitcher; Wm. Clauson, 1st; Lud Glarum, umpire. They lost to Lake Wilson. It was a rotten game. Hadley made 15 errors and Lake Wilson, 12 errors.

In the early '40's the Hadley baseball team really came into its own. Here is a record that no town in Minnesota the size of Hadley can equal.

- 1941 Hadley was champion in Gopher League, lost to Ivanhoe in finals.
- 1942 Hadley was champion of Gopher League, made state meet, but lost to Minnesota Lake.
- 1943 Hadley again made the state tournament. Won first game from Virginia, but lost to Nothem in the second round.
- 1944 Hadley lost in finals to Worthington.
- 1945 Hadley won in Gopher League, lost at state meet to Ashby.
- 1946 Hadley lost in the semi-finals.

EARLY HISTORY OF THE 4-H CLUB

Here are the names of some of the boys who were active in the early history of the work.

- 1924 Dairy calf exhibited at the Minnesota State Fair
- 1924 Everett Clauson-Poultry at Junior Live Stock Show
- 1925 Members: Goodwin Fresk, Glen Bennett, Nolan Johnson, Lloyd R. Johnson, Everett Clauson, Allan Johnson, Amery Johnson, Gordon Fresk, Allan Engebretson, Howard Clauson, Willard Clauson.

At the boys' camp at the State Fair in 1925 were Everett Clauson and Carl Grone.

The Hadley Co-Operative Creamery

No creamery in southwestern Minnesota has distributed more money to its patrons than the Hadley Co-op. Creamery, and no institution follows more closely the ideals of co-operation than this organization. Like most institutions that have grown steadily towards the top, it started in a humble way.

Hadley farmers and business men, back in 1905, were fully aware that the small grain crop was steadily forcing them backwards instead of forward. They started looking for a money crop, a crop that would bring money the year round instead of once a year, and the only practical answer was a creamery.

Creamery Meeting

You are invited to attend a creamery meeting at the school-house in Hadley, Saturday afternoon, Jan. 14, 1905. (Lake Wilson Pilot 1-13-1905).

The Hadley Co-operative Creamery Built in 1922



The creamery is thoroughly modern in every detail

This is a view from the east



This is a view of the creamery taken from the south

The promoters of this project desire to organize on a simple co-operative plan. No stock to be owned or controlled except by patrons.

At a meeting on January 20, Axel Fresk, M. E. Blood, J. W. Olson and Joe Swanson were appointed a committee to solicit. They secured the necessary pledges for stock and 500 cows. On February 10, the stockholders selected the following officers: A. I. Olson, President; J. W. Olson, Vice President; George Vallance and F. R. Blake, directors; S. P. Satter, Secy. and Chas. E. Weld, treasurer. Sixty shares of stock were subscribed. Alex Lowe donated a lot for the creamery which was 24 x 42 x 12 with a 12 x 24 leanto. An ice house was completed, but there was no ice and a car load was shipped in from Slayton.

The original stockholders up to March 1, 1905 were: F. H. Snare, F. Haase, W. Schroder, A. Fresk, Henry Kollowa, J. A. Johnson, Fred Zbornick, D. F. McCarvel, M. Schwartz, Louis Leguil, Thos. Brewster, Sande Bros., F. R. Blake, W. Benter, H. Snare, A. Rinehart, J. W. Olson, J. Severson, W.

Weber, P. Ellfson, C. Johnson, Wm. Fresk, L. C. Disch, S. P. Satter, C. Clark, A. Holman, John Voss, Ole Berson, Wm. Mooney, Chas. Swan, A. W. Legweg, Theo. Borg, George Vallance, Fred Ost, E. Buldhaupt, A. Kadolph, M. E. Blood, E. Larson, A. Martin, A. G. Johnson, B. H. Jacobson, N. B. Tyler, A. I. Olson, H. Benter, P. Doerhoefer, A. Olson, G. Paulson, A. L. Partridge, Thos. McCammon, J. Johnson, I. I. Moen, John Plambeck, C. E. Weld, Geo. Overbrockling, L. Resting, W. Forsaith, B. H. Larson, O. Heimness, W. Protextor, A. Pearson, Emil Depping, Lowe Bros., M. O. Holm, Engebretson Bros.

Gus Block of Westbrook was the first buttermaker. First machinery was an eight horse power gasoline engine, churns, separator, etc. The new well was 128 feet deep.

First Batch of Butter Churned on May 5, 1905

The first batch of butter churned in the new creamery amounted to 628 pounds. It was called Hadley Gilt Edged Butter. On Wednesday, May 14, a ton of butter was shipped. On June 2 there were 98 patrons. On June 17 there were 115 patrons. Larger and more machinery was purchased. Five thousand pounds of butter were shipped July 9, and there were 140 patrons on the books. Steadily the business and the service of the creamery expanded and on December 15, 1922, a new modern brick creamery was erected, filled with the latest modern machinery. A buttermilk dryer was installed in 1927 and on December 15, 1939, the stockholders voted to construct a locker plant. The plant was finished in April 1940, with 233 lockers. The buying of eggs was started on March 1, 1945, on a graded business. Since its organization the Hadley creamery has paid producers over \$8,250,000 including interest on stocks and dividends and has manufactured approximately 26,650,000 pounds of butter.

This is a record of service to the community and has been of real benefit not only to the farmers but to everyone living within the territory. Heading this worthwhile organization are E. L. Engebretson, Pres.; Nick Schneider, Vice Pres.; Goodwin Fresk, Sec'y-Treas. and directors Harry Jacobson, and C. I. Klassen. The patrons today number 525 and the

stockholders 450. The creamery was fortunate to secure the services of B. H. Crissinger. He has done a fine job in maintaining the standards of the creamery during the six years of his management.

Working in the Hadley creamery at this time are: Lloyd Olson, Eddie Nett, Wm. Schneider and Lester Solem, haulers; Harold Larson, helper and cream hauler; Delbert Peterson, hauler; B. H. Crissinger, manager; M. H. Deden, buttermaker; Howard Engebretson, helper; L. A. Schuster, engineer and dryer operator; Jean Van Klei, Zelma Van Klei and Eleanor Johanson, egg candlers; Arden Solem, assistant in egg dept.; Dolores Pommier, office secretary and Arnold Knutson, butcher.

Five of the employees saw service in World War II. We wish we had room to give complete records but lack of space prohibits it. Maynard H. Deden served with the 304th Ord. Reg't at Mississippi Ordnance plant at Jackson, Miss.—Arnold W. Knutson served in the 4th & 8th service commands, was instructor in meat cutting and cooking—Leonard A. Schuster had basic training at Santa Barbara, Cal. Served in Central Pacific with 124th Inf., was instructor in infantry weapons, came out a Staff Sgt. A. Howard Engebretson served in the engineers in European sector in the 3rd army, served in S. W. Pacific with 25 Div., saw service in Japan and Philippines, came out with Staff Sgt. rating. — Harold S. Larson, born February 22, 1922, entered service October 1, 1942, was attached to air transport service, 1333 base unit, AAF. Spent almost a year at Cairo, Egypt, and over a year in India at the Burma bases.

WESTERN MURRAY COUNTY HISTORY . MURRAY COUNTY, MINNESOTA

Highest Pavement in State in Chanarambie Twp.

According to the figures of the state highway engineer the stretch of pavement that crosses Buffalo Ridge is the highest in the state of Minnesota. The high point is on highway No. 47 at the intersection of sections 8-9-16 and 17 in Chanarambie township where it is 1851 feet above sea level. This is not the highest point on the ridge. About a mile south is still higher.

The Hadley Co-Operative Elevator Company

Among the solid co-operative business institutions that have done their part in the development and in the improvement of this section is the Hadley Co-operative Elevator Company. Today no company stands on a more solid foundation or has paid more regular dividends to its patrons and stockholders.

One reason for the fine showing of this company is due to the fact that every one of its present officers was an original shareholder when the company was organized over 32 years ago.

This organization did not have a very auspicious start at the first meeting which was held on March 21, 1914. There were only thirty stockholders present and the organization of the new elevator was postponed until March 28, 1914. The small crowd present on March 21 was due to a severe snow storm. At the postponed meeting on March 28 there were

The Hadley Co-Operative Elevators at Hadley



Elevator No. 1



Elevator No. 2

over forty enthusiastic farmers and business men present and they elected the following officers for a year. The directors elected were Axel Fresk, B. H. Jacobson, John G. Johnson, C. E. Clark, and B. H. Larson. The officers chosen were President, John G. Johnson; Vice President, B. H. Jacobson; Treasurer, Chas. F. Lowe, and B. H. Larson, Secretary.

According to the records of the company there were fifty-five shares of stock sold in 1914. These stockholders were the only shareholders in the company until 1916.

The first work of the new elevator board was the purchase of a building, and after investigation purchased the Hubbard & Palmer elevator for \$3,125.00 which the company took over on July 1, 1914. The elevator was in need of repairs and improvements and it was shut down for two weeks when the first manager, C. A. Chapman, arrived and took over his duties.

The business increased at such a rapid rate for the company that it was forced to secure more space for expansion so on August 15, 1916, just about two years after the start of the

organization the company purchased the Benson Grain Elevator company building for \$2,700.00. The west elevator was destroyed by fire in 1936 but was rebuilt two years later. The west elevator is being used as a storage for grain and seed grains of all kinds. The elevator also handles an ample supply of coal; more than enough for its regular customers. Cleaning facilities for cleaning grain are available also at the west elevator.

The elevator is a distinctly co-operative organization and has always paid satisfactory dividends.

The officers are real veterans: Axel Fresk serving as President since 1921, O. C. Wornson serving as Vice President since 1924, Donie Knutson has held the office of treasurer and secretary since 1934. Carl Johnson has been a director since 1937 and Chas. Swan has been a director since 1938. Ole D. Olson is manager of the company's business assisted by Leon Olson.

Ole D. Olson who has so ably managed the affairs of the company as manager for the last four years grew up in the business, serving seven years as assistant manager. Mr. Olson was united in marriage to Miss Gilletta Paulson on December 24, 1944.

The following is a list of the original stockholders: John G. Johnson, Joel Swanson, P. L. Swan, J. Iverson, H. Brecker, Johanson Bros., Aug. Markwardt, Chas. Olson, Chas. Swan, Holmen Bros., J. J. Mihin, Hans Pearson, A. P. Fresk, Wm. Fresk, Mrs. Ira Engebretson, J. D. Knutson, H. Yager, W. J. Clauson, L. R. Jones, J. W. Olson, C. F. Lowe, Harry Kadolph, E. B. Halverson, O. C. Wornson, A. A. Berg, W. P. Rice, John Voss, Mary Wornson, A. G. Johnson, C. Weigand, H. Deden, F. Ost, A. Johnson, B. H. Jacobson, C. E. Clark, A. Kadolph, J. M. Low, Mrs. P. Doerhofer, Dinehard & Weck Sec. Co., J. V. Bosch, A. S. Amundson, Theo. Michaelson, Ole Pearson, Otto Herman, Axel Fresk, Marie Nelson, Pete Pearson, B. H. Larson, Geo. Paulson, Carl G. Johnson, F. R. Blake, Ed Christenson, C. A. Paige, Albert Ost.

WESTERN MURRAY COUNTY HISTORY • MURRAY COUNTY, MINNESOTA

Murray County is thirty miles wide, that is from west to east, and twenty-four miles from north to south.

The Gateway House built in 1867



Home of B. M. Low

THE GATEWAY HOUSE

The most historic house, "The Gateway House" of Western Murray County passed out of view last year when it was razed, but not out of the memories of many an early pioneer of the 70's and 80's.

It was the log house, a commodious one, built by B. M. Low in the late sixties. There was only one settler in Murray County, Cap. Aldrich near Lake Shetek, when the Lows arrived in 1866.

John Low built his house on the prairie on the west side of the north lake and Bart, on the west side of the south lake in the timber by a small clearing.

For more than two decades this modest log house was the headquarters and gateway of not only Murray County but the boundless prairies to the west. (The first white settler came to Pipestone County in 1874.)

To this modest home, which was presided over by Mrs. Low, a typical pioneer from Wisconsin and a famous cook,

came waves of pioneers. Here stopped the new settlers and their families, eagerly looking for new homes. They came here from Wisconsin, New York, Ohio, Iowa and Canada, and from over the Atlantic came bashful, curious and eager Norwegians, Swedes, Scotch, Irish and English, etc. They came in covered wagons, drawn by oxen and horses, in Democrat wagons, on horse back and on foot, all anxious to be located on a piece of Murray County soil. Most of them headed for the Bart Low place, one of the reasons being that there was shade, water, and wood in abundance, and the pioneers rested both their wearied bodies and the livestock. Bart with his clever wit, genial ways, and his knowledge of the country, was the main attraction, and the hungry never left the place unfed.

To the home came the prospectors, land locators, government officials, sheriffs and their deputies from other counties and states, looking for some young fellow who had forgotten to pay a formal adieu to the woman who loved him or the man who had driven towards the west and some of his neighbor's livestock happened to mix in with his. Then there was the itinerant preacher making his rounds on horseback, the lawyers looking up claim rights, etc., a motley array all playing their parts in laying the foundation and the making of Murray County, one of the best counties in Minnesota.

When the county was organized in 1872 early county office seekers made the "Gateway House" their western headquarters. One could get a bed there in the attic; in most homes the only available beds were on the floor.

The Low house was built on the site of an old, old Indian village, a village far older than these United States. Thirteen known tribes had used the little clearing as a home for over four hundred years before the Lows arrived. Some tribes used it only during the fishing, hunting and trapping season, other tribes lived there the year round.

The house was constructed of the finest logs in the timber that surrounded it. The building was 14 x 20, a big house in those days. Most of the logs were twenty feet long and many of them were hewn square. The corners of the building were dovetailed so that the building could not spread in any direction. Wooden pins of oak held the door and windows in position.

They were just as firm and hard in 1946 as they were seventy-five years before. The windows were hauled from Mankato but the lime for plastering came from a kiln in Lake Sarah Township, and the sand from the shores of Bear Lake. The mortar was just as solid and firm as if it had been built of the most modern products.

No tract of land in western Minnesota is as rich in history as section 10 in Lowville township. At one time, it came into possession of a widow of John Keating, a private in Captain Payson's company of the Maine militia in the war of 1812. The British flag flew on this section before the days of the coming of the American Fur company, that in 1833 erected a stockade and trading post on the same section. Joe LaFramboise, in charge of the post being part French changed the name of Bear Lakes to La Grande Lisiere du Bois. "The Great Skirt of Woods."

The lordly elm trees which surrounded the little clearing echoed the dying cries of many an Indian brave. Tradition has it that many a battle was fought over the site of the village, but there is one authentic account of a battle which took place there ten years after the American Fur Co. had abandoned its trading post.

These so called battles were nothing but massacres, following the regular pattern of Indian warfare. In 1849 Wa-wandia-a-akapi, Chief of the Wapekuta band, and his followers were encamped in the clearing and little expected an attack. One night when the village slept the notorious Inkpa-duta and his renegade band slipped into the timber and pounced upon the sleeping Wapekutas. Before an alarm aroused the village, Wa-wandi-a-akapi and seventeen of his braves had been stabbed to death. Inkpa-duta withdrew without the loss of a man. The father of Inkpa-duta had been a co-chief of the Wapekutas. Those murdered in the Bear Lake clearing were Inkpa-duta's tribal brothers. No explanation can be given for the massacre, except that it is an example of the cruel cunning that characterized Inkpa-duta's career. Murders of whites at Spirit Lake, Iowa, and Jackson, Minnesota, by the same band of renegades, and other raids did much to spread distrust and hatred against all Indians in the minds of the settlers. The distrust tended to

widen the already wide breach between the whites and the Indians. Yet Inkpa-duta's renegades were as heartily hated by the Sioux as they were by the white people.

The Pipestone Quarries were the magnet that drew many travelers, scientists, and explorers to this section; most of them coming from the east, owing to the waterway routes.

George Catlin, the famous painter of the American Indian, visited this section in 1836. Mr. Catlin was also an entomologist and scientist and was so entranced with the beauty of the lakes and surrounding timber, and the myriads of wild fowl that he named the timber "The Great Oasis."

In 1838 Joseph Nicollet headed a government exploring expedition through this section. He was born in France and had made many explorations in the Mississippi valley. Second in command of this expedition was Second Lieut. John C. Fremont of the topographical corps of the United States army. Fremont was only twenty-five years old at that time and was destined to be one of the truly great Americans—the leader of that strong, hardy, colorful group who laid the foundation for the West.

He re-visited this section several years later being in charge of a surveying group. The surveying of Murray County started in 1857 but was not finished until 1866. The lapse was due to the Civil War.

No American has a more brilliant and striking career than Fremont—a major general in the Civil War and the first Catholic to be nominated for the presidency. He was defeated by Buchanan. In the next election Fremont was put forth as a candidate of the Progressive republican party but withdrew in favor of Abe Lincoln. During his life he conducted five separate adventurous expeditions which explored passes in the Rockies and opened up the Far West.

He was the first governor of California, first Senator from the same state, was the first Governor of Arizona and held many other important offices.

Bold, brave, but not always too ethical, he was the type of the soldier of fortune, who too often did away with red tape. His political and military enemies were many and they finally brought sorrow and disgrace to this soldier, who had done so much for his country. Few people know that he named Lake Fremont, just off Lake Shetek, after himself. He could have given his name to a larger lake, but he was not that type of a man. Over in Lincoln county he gave the name of his father-in-law, Senator Benton of Missouri to the lake, just across the northwest border of Murray County.

Many, many happy days were spent in the shadow of the "Gateway House." Hhere is where we had our picnics, our Fourth of July celebrations, where the neighbors gathered, where we hunted and fished, where the women folks went for chokecherries, plums, gooseberries and currants. Events of the days when life was a stern reality but the memories they left were fragrant and wholesome and the old timers carry them on their way to the setting sun.

WESTERN MURRAY COUNTY HISTORY . MURRAY COUNTY, MINNESOTA

Law Makers from Western Murray County

Western Murray County had its share of law makers in the lower house. They represented every shade of political opinion.

owville
ameron
. Leeds
Leeds
Skandia
. Leeds
. Leeds
ameron
. Leeds
Leeds

While Nelson, Knutson and Holmen were not residents of Leeds township when elected, they were raised in Leeds township and grew to manhood there so are considered products of Leeds.



Monument, erected by the State of Minnesota, which commemorates the massacre of 14 white settlers during the Indian uprising of 1862. The monument, which overlooks Lake Shetek and Smith Lake, is located two miles from Slaughter Slough where the fighting took place.

The Lake Shetek Massacre of August 20th, 1862

The first actual settlement of Murray County took place in the year 1859, when a body of hardy pioneers settled on the north and east shores of Lake Shetek. Three families came in the first year and by 1862, the settlement contained twelve families and six young men who were busy making new homes and attending to the farm work.

On the 29th of August, 1862, the Indian outbreak burst with terrific fury in western Minnesota and Lean Bear and White Lodge with their bands, numbering about a hundred Indians and squaws, started raiding the Lake Shetek settlement.

The first place visited that morning was the A. Meyers home at the head of the lake. They rode into the yard and ordered the Meyers family to leave at once. The Meyers left with what clothes they had on. The second place to be visited that morning was the P. Hurd home. Mr. Hurd was not at home. They ordered Mrs. Hurd to leave. The Indians then shot John Voight, the hired man.

The third place visited was the Andrew Koch (Cook) home. Mr. Koch was killed. Mrs. Koch escaped and, frantic with fear, started wading down the edge of the lake to warn the other settlers. One of the young men, Charley Hatch, heard or saw the trouble, so he got on a horse and started down the lake shore and warned every settler of the impending danger. The first family warned was the Eastlick family, who hurried to the Smith cabin. They saw the Smiths running from their home to the Wright cabin. The Eastlicks and the Smiths reached the Wright cabin at the same time. The settlers were gathering here. Wright was not at home, but Mrs. Wright, a true pioneer woman, was busy arming the men and women, punching holes in the clay between the logs for loopholes, bringing in water and preparing for a siege. A team of horses was also brought into the cabin. Mrs. Koch then arrived, followed shortly by Tommy Ireland and William Duley, almost exhausted. They said their wives and children had become so tired that they were forced to hide in the woods.

In the Wright yard was the wily, treacherous Sioux chief, Pawn, a "friend" of the whites. He went back with Duly and Ireland and helped bring in their families.

Thirty four people, eleven of them men, and a team of horses, were in the cabin, when the attack started. Pawn and his friendly Indians stood in the stable while Lean Bear and White Lodge led the attack for several hours. There came a lull in the fighting and Pawn came to the cabin and said, "If the settlers would leave there would be no more killing." Outnumbered and short of powder, the settlers agreed to leave.

There was no wagon, so the Indians allowed Rohdes and Hatch to take the team to the Everett place for a big wagon. Into the wagon were placed all the women and children except Mrs. Wright and Mrs. Duley and two Eastlick children. The women carried rifles and marched with the men. Mrs. Smith drove and Mrs. Eastlick stood on the wagon tongue, whipping the horses. They drove east from the Wright farm on their way to New Ulm and safety.

Just as they had reached a spot about a mile and a half from the Wright farm, the Indians commenced their vicious attack. They had cut across country, surrounding the settlers and commenced firing.

The position of the settlers became serious, as they were exposed to bullets from three sides, so they made a break for a nearby slough (later called Slaughter Slough) where they could hide in the high rushes and reeds. The Indians kept up the attack for some time after the settlers had gone into the slough. The settlers crouched low in the heavy vegetation and the bullets failed to drive them out.

Two of the settlers, both married, either left the scene of action or were killed in the slough and their bodies covered up as they were never heard of again. This left only nine men and three women to do battle with the Indians. During a lull in the shooting, Pawn, the old devil, who had lied to them before, urged them to come out and told them they would not be hurt. Eastlick and Everett were shot and killed in the slough.

Again the settlers, worn out by wading in the mud of the slough, were compelled to give up and listened to the lies of Pawn for the second time. Mrs. Wright came out of the slough carrying three guns. Ireland was badly wounded and managed to hide in the slough until night. Duley was the only man to

escape from the fight. He shot and killed Lean Bear. Seven straggling, unwounded children came out of the slough. There they stood in front of a band of brutal Indians and squaws. Mrs. Eastlick, Mrs. Ireland and Mrs. Everett were suffering from wounds and were not worth keeping by the Indians. The spoil was divided as follows: Mrs. Koch was given to an old chief and the two Ireland girls to another chief. The Wright woman and Mrs. Duley and two children were taken over by an ugly buck. The children were beaten to death before their mother's eyes. The squaws in a frenzy beat the three Merton boys to death. Mrs. Eastlick, who had struggled to her feet to try to save her sons, was beaten down and left for dead. Mrs. Smith lay dead and so did Mrs. Ireland while on her breast lay her youngest son, sleeping peacefully.

Nature was even shocked by the brutality of the Indians and torrents of rain and vicious lightning brought to a close one of the bravest fights in the history of the western settlements. Stragglers had hid away, including Mrs. Eastlick, and Tommy Ireland, who had revived some from the effects of their wounds and finally escaped.

The dead were picked up by a party of soldiers sent out soon after the massacre and buried. The bodies were removed later and laid at rest under the sturdy oaks of Smith Lake. The state erected a tall and stately monument to their memory in August, 1925.

Thus ended the real tragedy of early pioneer life in Murray County and these brave and hardy settlers sleep their last sleep, listening to the sigh of the winds through the oaks, the ripples on the waves of Shetek and Smith Lakes and the soft rustle of the waving grass. May their sleep be as peaceful as their end was tragic.

Meeting Death at the Hands of the Indians were:

- 1. Almira Hatch Everett (wife of Wm. Everett)
- 2. Willie Everett, aged 5
- 3. Charlie Everett, aged 2
- 4. Sophia Walters Ireland (wife of Thos. Ireland)
- 5. Sarah Jane Ireland, aged 5

- 6. Julianne Ireland, aged 3
- 7. Sophia Smith (wife of Henry Smith)
- 8. John Voight
- 9. Andrew Koch
- 10. John Eastlick
- 11. Fredrick Eastlick, aged 4
- 12. Giles Eastlick, aged 4
- 13. W. J. Duley, Jr. aged 10
- 14. Belle Duley, aged 6

The Lake Shetek massacre did not follow the pattern of most of the Indian raids. Not a cabin in the Lake Shetek settlement was burned. Not a settler was scalped. Money was left in the pockets of the murdered settlers. There was no evidence of excessive brutality and the Indians left two out of the three that were slain by the whites.

Duley, one of the three settlers who escaped from the slough was the man that cut the rope that sent the 48 Indians to their death at Mankato. Duley was a little inclined to boast of his prowess but the people that knew him thought very little of him after his leaving the slough where the women and children were.

The Wright cabin where the settlers met to make their first stand, was taken down log by log by the Tracy people for fuel during the winter of 1880-1881—the winter of the big snow.

WESTERN MURRAY COUNTY HISTORY • MURRAY COUNTY, MINNESOTA

Land was almost free; it cost the settler about \$7.50 to file on the claim. If he could live on it for five years, the government gave it to him for the proving up costs. The settler in addition could take up a tree claim. He planted so many trees and protected them from the prairie fires, and if he saved them he got 160 acres of land. Then if some early settler got tired of it all, he could buy his rights for \$1.25 an acre. This was called preemption.

FORMATION OF MURRAY COUNTY

The part of Minnesota that is now known as Murray County had its inception as a separate politic division in 1857, when the legislature formed the congressional townships into counties and gave each group of townships a name. The twenty townships, comprising this county, were named Murray County in honor of William Pitt Murray who was a member of the legislature and a member of the committee on counties. In the late '50's settlers located on the east shore of Lake Shetek. Others came in from time to time and in 1862 there were about forty people in the settlement. In one day in August, 1862, the entire settlement was wiped out by the Indians. The dead were interred in one grave on the east side of the lake.

It was several years after the massacre before settlers again ventured into these parts. The first to come was John H. Low, who spent the winter of 1865-6 trapping in the vicinity of Bear Lakes. He took up a homestead at that time. He had passed through this section in 1863 with an expedition sent against the Indians in South Dakota.

In 1867 a few settlers arrived and new settlers came each year thereafter. In 1871 a movement was made to organize the county. On Feb. 26th, 1872, the legislature passed a law organizing the county and the governor appointed Lewis Low, Samuel Armstrong and W. S. French county commissioners and empowered them to locate the county seat. On June 17th, 1872, the commissioners met at the home of W. W. Calkins. Lewis Low was elected chairman of the board. The board then elected the county officers: W. W. Calkins, auditor; Nelson Joy, treasurer; F. M. Byram, register of deeds; Z. W. Marsh, sheriff; B. M. Low, surveyor; C. T. Aldrich, coroner.

The above officers were selected by the wishes of a majority of the legal voters of the county at an election held at the home of Doc Shephard.

The county was then divided into three commissioner districts. At the July meeting of the same year, Holly, Murray and Shetek townships were organized. S. R. Harris was chosen as county attorney and E. Cutter was appointed Supt. of schools at a salary of \$25.00 a year.

The act of the legislature organizing the county authorized the county board to locate the county seat. Then the legislature on Feb. 24th, 1873, passed a bill locating the county seat on the NE½ of the SE¼ of section 17-107-40 where Currie now stands, but later in the same session of the legislature an act was passed changing the location of the county seat to the NE¼ of the SE¼ of section 34-107-41. When the commissioners met they were evidently not satisfied with the act of the legislature and on Sept. 4th, 1872, ordered that a vote be taken to decide the location of the county seat.

The county records at that time fail to show when the election was held, where it was held, and the result of the election. Politics were getting warm and there was a real hot election.

On January 7, 1873, the commissioners met at the home of L. D. Bonesteel about three miles north of what is now Slayton. This house was nearest the point or place selected by the legislature.

At the election in Nov. of 1872, L. D. Bonesteel, W. H. Mellen, and John H. Low were elected commissioners. At this meeting the salary of the Supt. of schools was raised to \$100.00 a year. The political leaven was working at a meeting of the board. W. H. Mellen moved that they meet "at Currie's Mills, the county seat of Murray County on May 16th at 9 o'clock A. M." The board met the next day and as Bonesteel was absent, John H. Low acted as chairman pro tem. This would indicate that the election for the removal to the NE¼ of the SE¼ had carried. At this place Neil Currie established the first store in the county and later a flour mill. The first store of the '70 wave was that of L. D. Bonesteel. He kept a little tea, coffee, flour and tobacco.

The first grand and petit jurors were drawn in January 1874.

A county seat war which started in the early '80's kept the county in an uproar for several years. The county seat, that is the records, were moved from Currie to Slayton and then back again to Currie and then returned to Slayton in 1889. Some of the county officers lived at Currie and some at Slayton during

the county seat war. The county seat election of 1889 reminded one of the elections of New York and Chicago. Votes were openly bought on both sides and Jerry Baker, whom you will find mentioned in the Cameron twp. article, drew down the top price for his vote. One of the campaign men told the writer that they had to pay him \$7.50, the highest price paid in the county by either side. The county had those staunch men of every decade, who would not sell their vote under any circumstance, but they did accept two quarts of whiskey from the wellfilled back end of the buggy. That was the election of the county. Committees from both sides were present at every polling place and the going price of votes was three dollars and a half. If one got more, one had to be watched. That was one early Murray County election where party lines, which were mighty strong in those days, were forgotten. The people of the county voted \$22,300.00 for the erection of the present courthouse in 1892. Slayton carried the election by a majority of 12 votes

WESTERN MURRAY COUNTY HISTORY . MURRAY COUNTY, MINNESOTA

"POVERTY HILL"

The term "Poverty Hill" for the highest area in Mason township has been the cause of much inquiry and argument. Back in the '70's two of the young men who came west for land made their home at Currie. One of them, John Dennison, settled on the high area in Mason and G. H. Smith settled on a place in Cameron township. They batched it at first and as conditions were not of the best, Dennison jokingly called his place "Poverty Hill." G. H., not to be outdone, called his place "Calamity Ranch." They would spend the weekends in Currie and naturally told the folks about their places. The "Poverty Hill" name stuck but that of "Calamity Ranch" was soon forgotten. The voyageurs' name for the hill was "Butte Des Morts," the equivalent of the Sioux name meaning "Mound of the Dead." Here on the hill on scaffolds, the Sioux who hunted and lived nearby, deposited their dead. Fremont and Nicollet camped on top of the hill on the way to Bear Lake Woods in 1838.

IN MEMORY OF THOSE WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES IN WORLD WAR II

Howard W. Bedford, born Oct. 20, 1925, second son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred W. Bedford of Lake Wilson. Entered the Navy Jan. 13, 1944. Was in Landing Craft Div. killed in action Feb. 16, 1945 at Corregidor, P. I.

Harold J. Hansen, born Nov. 23, 1925, oldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Herman Hansen, of Lake Wilson. Entered the service July 21, 1944. Was in Co. E. 119th Inf. 30th Div. of 9th Army. Killed in action, in Germany, Mar. 31, 1945.

Gordon B. Olson, born May 30, 1926, oldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Oscar A. Olson of Lake Wilson. Entered service Aug. 7, 1944, killed in action in France, March 20, 1945.

Herman John Nett, born Aug. 3, 1915, third son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Nett of Lake Wilson. Entered service June, 1942, and was attached to 9th Army under General Leonard. Killed in action in Germany, Apr. 15, 1945. His body lies in the cemetery at Margarerten, Holland.

Marvin C. Kahnk born April 17, 1923, son of Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Kahnk of Lake Wilson. Entered the service Sept. 14, 1944. Was in Co. C. 382 Inf. Sent overseas in February. Killed in action on Okinawa Island, Japan, May 10, 1945.

Harold A. Johnson, son of Mr. and Mrs. George Johnson of Lake Wilson, born April 10, 1922. Entered the service of the U. S. March 24, 1943. Was in the 15th Air Corps. Was killed in action in Italy Oct. 17, 1944.

Edward William Beers, born June 2, 1920, second son of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Beers of Lake Wilson. Entered the service Nov. 4, 1941. Attached to 3rd Armored Div. Killed in action in the Battle of the Bulge in Belgium, December 19, 1944.

Duane Alfred Dahlquist, third son of Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Dahlquist, born Sept. 25, 1921, entered the Air Corps in July, 1942. Lt. Dahlquist was killed in line of duty, Aug. 19, 1944 in the Pacific Area.

Matt Ver Does, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Ver Does was born Jan. 16, 1921, entered the service Oct. 19, 1942, attached to tank radio work. Killed in Battle of the Bulge, Dec. 21, 1944.

Henry John Oldenmeyer, born March 18, 1918, son of Mr. and Mrs. Rens Oldenmeyer, entered the army Mar. 22, 1942. Attached to 357th Infantry, 90th Division; killed in France June 12, 1944.

WESTERN MURRAY COUNTY HISTORY • MURRAY COUNTY, MINNESOTA

THE BUFFALO

Thousands of buffalo dotted the prairies in Murray County in the real early days. They have long since vanished from this area. Their trails were found by the early explorers; some of the trails over the Buffalo Ridge were six and seven inches in depth.

When the buffalo migration started westward is not known. They were plentiful in western Murray County in the 1830's and Major Allen, who was in this section, noted seeing buffalo in 1844

While buffalo was plentiful in 1835, the hides seemed to have no commercial value, as they do not appear on any of the invoices of the American Fur Trading Company at the Bear Lake Post.

Many buffalo skulls have been found in the western part of the county, especially in nearby sloughs and springs on the slopes of the Buffalo Ridge. The reason that no bones were found on the prairies is that "bone gatherers" were plentiful here in the early '80's. They gathered the bones from the prairies and shipped them in carload lots.

Buffalo robes and coats were quite popular in the late '70's and early '80's. Their heavy pelt and thick covering of hair made them ideal coats to ward off zero weather. A lone, stray buffalo is said to have been seen near Lake Shetek in the '60's.

Elk were here in abundance about the time the buffalo were going out. Herds of over two hundred were not uncommon in the 1840's. The last elk in this section was killed in Skandia in 1876. Deer never were plentiful in western Murray County.

While no doubt there were bear and beaver here, they appeared to have disappeared before the coming of the white man. The late Bob Hyslop told the writer that in all the years he had worked for Neil Currie in the seventies he had only purchased one beaver.

The Early History of Lake Wilson, Minnesota

In 1882, Jonathon E. Wilson, a member of the well known firm of Wilson Bros., manufacturers of men's furnishings of Chicago, decided to go west and start a ranch.

He sent J. W. Bragdon, one of his employees, to look for a suitable location. He travelled over the state for several months and decided on this section of the country.

Chas. Norwood of Skandia twp. had homesteaded the parcel of land which is now Lake Wilson and had a little shack on the banks of the lake. After some dickering, Bragdon bought the land from Mr. Norwood, Alex Lowe being a witness on the contract. The railroad was here then, (1882) having been completed in 1880.

In 1883, the building of the new town started in earnest. Magne Anderson, who was then in the employ of the Omaha railroad company at Heron Lake, was ordered to go to Lake Wilson and construct a side track so that cars could be unloaded. Work started feverishly on the new town which was named after its promoter. Lumber and goods poured in by the car load and every available carpenter was put to work. The men stayed at Woodstock at first and were driven back and forth.

The big hotel and store building was built in 1883 and so was the Peavey elevator now owned by Hubbard & Palmer. Residences were started and a smaller building was built for a store north of where the schoolhouse now stands. The building is now used as a residence. It was the first building completed in Lake Wilson. Houses to care for the help, were erected, a blacksmith shop and other buildings.

Mr. Wilson constructed a huge barn with sheds on the south side of the village. Another barn and many sheds were built at the south end of the lake. The barn near town was devoted to horse raising and was full of imported Percherons from France. At the lower end of the lake, the shed contained the finest herd of Hereford cattle in the county. For hogs he had Berkshires. Both the Herefords and Berkshires were imported from England. Wilson owned 17,000 acres of land in this vicinity at one time. No man ever lived in Murray County

who did as much for it. Year after year, he had his own colt and horse shows from the get of his full blood sires. The father of the writer was awarded the first prize one year for a Hereford bull calf. It was \$75.00, a good chunk of money in the early '80's. There was hardly a man in the township that had not been aided and helped by Wilson, but the inevitable came. Petty township politicians started the old cry "the rich should pay more taxes" and the board put in the cheap prairie land at the same assessment value as their improved farms. Mr. Wilson failed to see any justice in it so he sold most of his livestock and moved the balance to a small town near Chicago.

In 1899 the land north of the track was platted by M. E. Lang. There was a steady stream, at that period, of German farmers from Nebraska and Iowa and a sprinkling of Swedes and Norwegians. These men were experienced farmers and did a lot in the development of the community. The building up of the north side was a duplicate of the starting of the town. People had money in those years and buildings went up almost over night.

Strome, Bruner & Young put up a huge store building (for that time). It stood where the Johnson store does today. From Tyler came N. O. Jensen and Nels Christensen. Jensen was a harness maker and Nels a butcher. A bank was started by Iowa parties; H. Clasen built a fine hotel with steam heat, something unusual for a town of this size. He sold out to Chas. Winzer. In fact the north side of the track had all the elements and all the businesses of a western town. It had all the various stores and shops, even a blind pig which graduated into a saloon run by R. Trosin.

Among the early merchants on the south side were the Engebretson Bros. Fine honest men they were. As was the custom, no goods were paid for except once a year when the crop was threshed. Traveling men came to the store. They carried as high as 20 big trunks, but only came twice a year. Summer goods were bought in the winter and the winter goods in the summer. Farmers would come in once a week and sometimes once in two weeks to do their trading. The sidewalks were wooden affairs and stood three feet off the street on the north side, which was a real mudhole after every rain. Gravel

was hauled in by the wagon load to fill up the street. There were 8 street lights. Kerosene lamps were used for street lights, homes and business places. The marshal got \$10.00 a month, and the council got cussed as they do now.

The big fire of May 11th, 1911, wiped out the north sidethat is, the business portion. In all, thirty buildings were destroyed. Here is the toll: Harness and shoe shop, butcher shop, bowling alley, drug store, restaurant, department store, state bank, 2 lumber yards, furniture, barber shop, real estate office, the depot, two machine sheds, two water tanks, engine house and store building, 3 box cars, elevator, 2 ice houses, 5 barns, 2 coal sheds, and 2 cement sheds—a hard blow, but they took it on the chin. The council room was used as a bank, barber shop, real estate office, etc., and things were kept moving. Fire departments came from Pipestone, Slayton and other towns, but the wind was blowing a gale that day, and as there were no waterworks, the afternoon was spent watching the town burn. There was a local fire outfit here: two gas machines, but they could do nothing against a blaze like that. The fire started in a barn at the rear of the Grier store. The wind was a howling gale from the northwest and in less time than it takes to tell, the town was a mass of flames. By nightfall everything on the north side was leveled to the ground. The Farmers elevator and the Peavey elevator escaped destruction as did the little postoffice and the old hotel building.

The town came back with a real bang. For years its Farmer's Day celebrations were the leading sporting event in this section. People flocked here to see good baseball. And what good baseball teams we had! Besides the county teams, there was the best in this section of the state. Here John Donaldson, negro player and greatest pitcher of all time, either black or white, strutted his stuff with the All Nations, and then there were the Sioux City Packers when they were in their prime, the Raggedy Tennessee Rats, Gilkerson's Union Giants, a team that had more power than any other colored team that made this section, the Flandreau and Pipestone Indians, Esther-ville and Spencer, Pipestone and Marshall. Calling the names of the teams who played here in those balmy days would include the name of every better team in this section of the state,



The Lake Wilson Nickel Plate Band in the spring of 1905

South Dakota or Iowa. The management always had this thought: get the best.

Those early "Farmer's Days" were the "Golden Era" for this section. There was the community spirit that comes to the builders of a community, and the farmers in this vicinity joined in to help make these big days a success. They were just as proud of the Farmer's Days as the folks in town. Baseball was not everything on the program. There was always a topnotch speaker, good bands; then there were prizes for the best buggy team, the best single horse, best draft team, horse races, tugs-of-war and all kinds of minor sports. The first airplane to take to the air in Murray County took off at one of the "Days." Then there were the foot races for the men, boys and girls, some good free acts and the day ended with a big dance in the evening. All the ladies aid societies had eating stands. In fact everybody entered into the spirit of the affair. In the winters we had calf shows, colt shows, corn and grain shows and then there was always the Farmers' Institute for two days, generally the two coldest days of the winter. These were the horse and

buggy days, perhaps a bit old fashioned compared to the fast moving scenes of the present, but they brought out the best that was in men and women.

In the '80's this was a sportsman's or rather a hunter's paradise. Ducks, geese, brants, plover and snipe were shot from the lake shore. The men from Maine, who came here in the employ of Wilson in 1883, had a wonderful time. They built sail and row boats for the lake which had 15 feet of water. When fall came the boys had a building about 12x14 on the lake shore and it was literally filled with brants, geese and ducks. They were shot in the freezing days of the fall and kept until the holidays.

The first depot agent was Chas. Bragdon. J. W. Bragdon was the first postmaster. J. W. Parshall was the first school teacher, walking in four miles from his farm nearly every morning. Ted Humble was the first lumber man. The first Christmas tree was a bare ash from Bear Lake. The willows along



First airplane to fly in Murray County, June 1915 Otto Timms of Windom was the pilot. There was a canvas placed around the plane after the flight and a fee of 10 cents was charged to see the new machine

the lake shore were planted by M. E. Lang and H. Uebesigitzig in 1884. Bill Sabin was the first man to work in Lake Wilson; he helped dig the first cellar. The first postoffice was located on the Flannery place west of town. The postmaster was Wm. Luce. The first religious service in Lake Wilson was held in the third story of the big store building. This hall was also used for dances, parties, and lodges. Amusements were simple, consisting of literary societies, which always included a debate. taffy pulls, dances (sometimes a one man fiddle affair), stringing the cranberries and popcorn for the Christmas tree, the Christmas programs, quilting bees and skating and sleighing parties. When death came to a home, the shades were pulled down and the neighbors in pairs, took turns in sitting up with the corpse. The revivalist held down the school house for two weeks and sometimes we had some of our own who soon forgot and started chewing tobacco and cussing the minute the revivalists had gone. We used to have a pool as to who would be the first to backslide.

Magic lantern shows would make the town once a year and a phrenologist would hold forth at the schoolhouse for a couple of nights reading our heads. In the early '80's a picturesque looking foreigner would make the rounds with a dancing bear who climbed the telephone pole, danced and wrestled with the keeper. Hunting did not take up much time in the fall. There were no game laws and everybody had all the game he wanted. The lake has been dry at three different periods (that is, completely dry). The earliest was before the '60's, (so an Indian told Hans Nelson, pioneer resident). Train service especially in the winter was terrible. One winter in the late '80's we had no service here from December until April. The wheat was green in the fields by the time the train came. We got our mail and merchandise from Chandler that winter. Bill Sabin was mail carrier. Bids were taken for the job. When the bids were opened, Bill's bid was ninety cents so he had the job.

When sickness came, doctors came from Slayton and Pipestone; not very often, though, as it cost money, something we did not have to burn.

Groceries all came in barrels or boxes, no cartons. At first there were no paper sacks and we had to pour the sugar out on a flat piece of paper and tie it up. Everything but canned goods came in boxes or barrels. Even the snooze was kept in a jar and had to be weighed out by the ounce. Before the stockyards came, farmers butchered their pigs and brought in the carcasses. They were laid on a box and you could buy a quarter, a half or a whole hog. Dressed beef sold for 3 to 4 cents the pound.

We had no movies, no ice cream parlors, no study club, no bridge club, no lodges, no beer halls; yet we got by and were more contented than we are now. The village of Lake Wilson was incorporated June 23, 1900.

One of the staunch friends of Lake Wilson in the early days was B. I. Weld of Slayton. He was president of the State Bank here during the fire of 1911, and when plans were being drawn for the new bank building a majority of the directors were in favor of erecting a one story building. Mr. Weld, however, was insistent that the new building should have two stories and finally won his point. Ever since the bank was built the upper story has had a tenant. In many other ways the late Mr. Weld lent his aid and assistance to Lake Wilson and his help was duly appreciated by the folks who knew and loved B. I.



"In the Days of Steam"



Bathing in Lake Wilson in 1910

Latest styles in bathing costumes that season. One of the ladies is now the wife of a well known Chanarambie twp. farmer

Another Slayton man who was always a sincere friend of Lake Wilson was the late Senator J. V. Weber. Vin started coming to Lake Wilson in the early Farmer's Days. He used to sell wienies, and he made good at that, as he did in everything he tried. He was always willing and able to aid us in every undertaking. Spoke here on Commencement Days and Decoration Days, in fact, whenever we were in need, we called on "Vin" and he never failed us.

The title of most successful man in the history of Lake Wilson, no doubt, goes to L. J. Kaplan. He came to Lake Wilson in 1920 and started up a store on a meagre line of merchandise. The goods were all right but they were few and far between. He and his wife, Sylvia, buckled down to work and put the old

Engebretson store building into shape. The man and his wife had some experience in dry goods. They soon expanded, moving into the building north of the State bank. Here they grew and prospered. Louie had everything in the sales line. He bought flour, peaches, apples, salt, etc. in car load lots and his trade increased far beyond the Lake Wilson territory. His success here attracted buyers and the Kaplans sold out here and moved into Iowa.

Locating in Storm Lake, he operated a chain of stores throughout Iowa and southern Minnesota, and branched out into the wholesale grocery business while residing in Storm Lake.

They moved the wholesale business to Sioux City, Ia. and expanded their retail stores.

In 1929 they adopted a four year old girl, Doris, and in 1932 a son, Jay, was born to them. Doris was married in August, 1944, to Allan H. Rolfe, of Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Louie never lost the human touch for his Lake Wilson friends—something that is greater than fame or honor.

Baseball "Came" to Lake Wilson in "Gay Nineties"

Baseball as it was played here in the late eighties was a pretty crude sport. We used to play in the pasture just south of the Bobbie Smith home. Bill Mooney, who lived over in Leeds twp. was an ardent baseball fan. He came from Iowa. Bill asked his nephew Hugh Mooney to come and visit him. He was a curve ball pitcher and a good one. We were playing the Sod Grabbers that day, a team from over Buffalo Ridge way, and a quaint bunch they were. The town lads were decked out in pants of blue, yellow and scarlet. The Grabbers wore overalls and their catcher had feather beds for mitts. He had one for each hand, big affairs they were, stuffed with chaff and feathers. When he caught the ball he had to stop and take off one mitt and then the other, and by that time the runner, like Greenberg, was on third. Hugh fairly stood the Grabbers on their heads. They were bowing and bending like a head waiter at his curves and the score ended 67 to 3 in favor of the curve ball. Hugh is a cousin of Ed. Scully of Hadley. Bill Mooney still lives at Waverly, Iowa.

CHURCH HISTORY OF LAKE WILSON

THE GERMAN EVANGELICAL CHURCH

The first church in Lake Wilson was the German Evangelical. It was organized in 1898 by Rev. Hahlen. Among the organizers were the Theo. Roeseler, Fred Kuist, Julius Nepp, Otto Bauman, Carl Rickgarn, Robert Koplein and J. Plambeck families.

Services were first held in the old schoolhouse. Then a small church was built. With the coming of other churches the membership began to dwindle and the church was sold in 1920 to the members of the Catholic church.

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Lake Wilson Lutheran church was organized at the old school house in Lake Wilson on the evening of April 17, 1903, the Rev. L. O. Fossum of Slayton acting as chairman of the meeting. The Lutheran Christians in and around Lake Wilson organized by adopting a befitting constitution in which



Dedication of the First Lutheran Church in September 1906



An early Ladies' Aid Society

Mesdames: Jensen, Sackett, Lavalle, Osborne, Bean, Lang, Pattinson, Paxton,
Uebersetzig and Forrest

they named the congregation "The Rosendahl Scandinavian Evangelical Lutheran Congregation of Lake Wilson, Minn." Martin Westwick was secretary and Peder Engebretson was treasurer of the meeting. Andrew I. Olson, T. T. Bondhus and Peder Engebretson were selected as trustees. The trustees also served as deacons. Rev. Fossum was the first pastor; he was installed July 11, 1903. The charter members were Peder and Turena Engebretson, and Hervida, Lawrence and Mamie Thorbjorn, Margretha Bondhus, and John, Gunnar, Herman, Zella, Martin, Arent, Thorn, Lars, George; Thorvald and Cecelia; Andrew I. and Lena Olson, and Bernt, Oscar, Ernest, Chester; John and Sina Lane, and Selma, Jennie, Antoinette, Clifford; Lewis and Lottie Tokle, and Andrew and Arthur; Iver and Mathilda Moen, and Clarence, Carl, Mabel, Ida, Ellen: Theodore and Martin Westwick; Lars and Jim Sande. Eight families totalling forty-six souls. Church was held in the old schoolhouse for the first four years. In 1946 with the Rev. M. D. Hinderlie, pastor, the congregation numbered 385 souls. A missionary to China is supported in addition to many other benevolent and educational enterprises.

THE METHODIST CHURCH

The first preacher to visit this section was Rev. Stockdill of Windom, an itinerant preacher who made visits to the outlying districts in this section of the state. He came on horseback, and the first services held were at the home of Elder Phelps in Chanarambie township. There was no Methodist organization in Lake Wilson until 1907 when Rev. Ellis effected an organization. The members purchased the old schoolhouse for church purposes. Here is a list of the names of the members who organized the church: Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Anderson, Alex, Henry and Helen Anderson; Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Partridge and son, Ivan; Mr. and Mrs. G. G. Balcom; Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Osborne, Eunice and Rowena; Mr. and Mrs. M. H. Blood and Ruby; Mr. and Mrs. G. G. Grier and family; Mr. and Mrs. L. L. Grier and family; Mr. and Mrs. F. L. Sackett; Mrs. J. M. Ganschaw; Herbert and Blanche Sackett; Mrs. R. D. Sprague and Dora; Mrs. Sadie Triplett and Eva.

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

The Catholic church was organized in Lake Wilson in 1916. The members who took part in the organization of the church were Mr. and Mrs. Casper Goeppel, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Manderscheid, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Nett, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Nett, Mr. and Mrs. Herman Nett, Mr. and Mrs. Casper Rademacher, Mr. and Mrs. Michael P. Flannery, Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Hook, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Berreau, and Mr. and Mrs. Phil Flannery. The first mass was said by Father O'Regan of Slayton. The church property was purchased from the German Evangelical organization.

WESTERN MURRAY COUNTY HISTORY . MURRAY COUNTY, MINNESOTA

The name of the postoffice two miles west of Lake Wilson was named Limestone. The name of the lake now called Lake Wilson was formerly Sand Lake. The lake at Hadley was called Summitt.

The Lake Wilson Co-Operative Elevator & Lumber Company

No history of western Murray County would be complete without the story of the Lake Wilson Co-operative Elevator & Lumber Company, the heaviest local taxpayer in Murray County.

The unsatisfactory prices paid for grain in the early 1900's brought about the organization of the Lake Wilson Co-operative Elevator. This institution was started Feb. 18, 1905, when a notice was placed in the Pilot asking all farmers who were interested in a farmers' elevator to meet at Brekke's hall on March 4th.

A. I. Olson was elected temporary chairman and Philip Flannery temporary secretary. After a discussion of grain market conditions in Lake Wilson the meeting was adjourned until March 11, 1905. At this meeting, the following officers

The Lake Wilson Farmers Co-op. Elevator & Lumber Co.



This is the first office. It was taken in 1914



This is a view taken in 1946. Buildings are so crowded that it is impossible to get all the buildings in one picture

were elected: President, A. I. Olson; Vice Pres., L. Triplett; J. J. Mihin, Treasurer; and George Vallance, Secretary. At this meeting \$4,000.00 was pledged. A motion was passed that the shares be \$25.00 and the limit placed at four to a member, who was allowed only one vote. The directors elected were John Rohde, W. S. Pattinson, S. T. Campbell, Christ Erickson, and B. F. Warren. The officers were instructed to prepare bylaws and a constitution.

The following is a list of the names of the farmers who purchased shares: A. I. Olson, L. Triplett, C. Erickson, L. Tokle, B. F. Warren, S. T. Campbell, John Rohde, George Vallance, Gust Nelson, Wm. Prahm, G. J. Gjervold, H. W. Anderson, J. J. Mihin, Frend Kench, Wm. Scott, J. D. Peterson, R. Harmsen, Ole Oleson, Phil Flannery, Theo. Berg, E. N. Moore, Fred Carlson, Wm. Sabin, J. A. Johnson, O. H. Williams, Victor Anderson, Martin Madison, J. Plumbeck, August Olson, Iver Erdahl, J. J. Low, B. Erdahl, Tom Hughes, W. S. Pattinson, A. Oberg, M. E. Blood, Theo. Roeseler, Ole Peter-

son, August Erickson, J. O. Gravel, A. F. Folstad, Fred Sagner, Carl Rickgarn, N. Nissen, E. Humphrey, J. Anderson, Joe Stevens, C. L. Bangson, Otto Bauman, J. F. Nepp, M. Flannery, H. Brummer, Tom Flannery, O. Erdahl, J. E. Thompson, J. Knaach, A. L. Partridge, G. Country, T. Wunderlick, Andrew Edmundson, Fred Gass, Ole Halbostad, M. Schwartz, Martin Forrest, Otto Heimness and B. O. Gravely.

On June 2nd of the same year the new company purchased the Hubbard & Palmer elevator.

A four bin coal shed was built in the fall. Here was the Lake Wilson Farmers' Co-operative Elevator Association born, and not a member at that time ever dreamed that it would become the largest institution of its kind in Murray County. In commenting on the new organization the Pilot of March 25 said, "Not one of the stockholders needed security or additional signers on their notes"—something unusual in those days.

The history of the organization has been one of progress and expansion. In 1914, three years after the disastrous fire, the members purchased the M. E. Lang lumber yard. More buildings were erected, including a seed and feed shed, and they carry a complete line of every variety of seed as well as a substantial stock of feeds for livestock, including poultry.

A modern coal shed was erected which is one of the best in this section. Naturally the company has had its ups and downs; there were years when the profits were exceedingly low, the lumber yard one year not showing a cent profit.

The officers who direct the policy of the association today are: Gilbert Erickson, President; Leslie Oberg, Vice-President; John Tutt, Treasurer; Oscar Olson, Secretary; and Directors, Henry Anderson, Fred Heins and Gunder Bondhus.

In charge of the company operations are: Willis F. Godfrey, General Manager, who has been with the company since 1939, and Rudy Brummer, Assistant Manager of the lumber yard, and Frank H. Nett, Assistant Manager of the grain department. These two men joined with the company in 1939. Two of the men, Godfrey and Brummer, were in the navy during World War II.

The First National Bank of Lake Wilson, Minn.

In the development of this community the First National Bank has played its part.

This institution was organized in 1919 and during the last twenty-eight years has played an outstanding part in every phase of the steady improvement and the security of this section of Murray County.

The bank was opened on August 19th, 1919 with the following officers: President, John W. Erickson; vice president, A. G. Lane; J. M. Collins, cashier; Henry Groskreutz, assistant cashier and Ole Halbostad, Fred Carlson and C. E. Zeiner, directors.

During the depression period this bank like hundreds of others in this section was strained to the utmost. Bank after bank was closing its doors but the First National kept its doors open and its credit good. It was the only bank in western Murray County to weather the financial storm. While the bank

The First National Bank of Lake Wilson, Minnesota



The bank was erected in 1919



This is the old store building erected by J. E. Wilson, in 1883. It was the first hotel, first store, first post office, first church, etc. It stood on the plot of ground now occupied by the bank

officials were criticized at times for being too conservative, the policy of the institution proved to be a sound one.

Today the bank that started with a capital amounting to \$25,000.00 and \$5,000 surplus, now has footings of over one million dollars and a reputation for soundness not exceeded by any bank in Minnesota. In 1947 Glen A. Swenson, who had served the bank for nearly twenty-five years, sold his interests to H. R. Lexvold.

Mr. Lexvold, who was born in Center Point, Iowa, has been associated with banks all of his adult life being employed in banks in Iowa, Minnesota and California and naturally has gained a wide experience in the banking business.

For some time he has been anxious to enter the banking business in southwestern Minnesota and in a town where he

could make his home and he feels well satisfied with the town and the people in the community and the village.

Mr. Lexvold was united in marriage to Miss Marion Lilland of Estherville, Iowa. They have two children, Roger and Shirley. Assisting Mr. Lexvold in the bank are R. E. Meyer, formerly of Mountain Lake, Minnesota and Miss Margaret Anderson of Lake Wilson. The officials of the bank are: President, Albert Amundson; vice president, H. R. Lexvold; directors: Mrs. B. O. Clauson, C. F. Lentz, and Henry Anderson, and H. R. Lexvold, cashier.

WESTERN MURRAY COUNTY HISTORY . MURRAY COUNTY, MINNESOTA

The First White Man to Visit Murray County Was Philander Prescott

Prescott, one of the adventurous white traders of his time, traded with the Indians in this section as early as 1831. Prescott with his family, voyageurs and several Indians left Traverse de Sioux (St. Peter) on September 1, 1831. He was signed as an independent trader two years before the American Fur company opened its post at Bear Lakes. They used eight ox carts to transport the party and the trade goods. Carts are not to be confused with the covered wagons. They had only two wheels and were drawn by one ox. After a seven-day journey across the prairies, they arrived at the Bear Lakes. He was so taken up by the natural resources of the spot that he was tempted to appeal to Bailly, the agent, to trade there. "We got to what is called 'The Big Clump of Woods'," wrote Prescott. "It is an island, the cause of there being timber because fire could not get at it. This point is the head of the Des Moines River. (This was an error on Prescott's part.) It is a large grassy lake and a great place for muskrat and waterfowl, and consequently a great place for Indians as there is no timber for a long distance to the south or west. At this place I almost made up my mind to winter here "

Prescott was the first white man to visit Bear Lakes or the Pipestone Quarries of which there is a written record.

CHANARAMBIE TOWNSHIP

Back in August 1879, a petition, signed by E. W. Powell and twenty-two other voters, was presented to the county commissioners asking that township 106-43 be established and that it be named Lime Stone. The petition was granted, and the first meeting for the election of officers was held on August 25, 1879, at the Wm. Luce home (now the Flannery place).

Several years after, the name of the township was changed to Chanarambie, named from the creek and the "Lost Timber."

This township was about the last to be organized in the county with the exception of Fenton which was the last township to be organized.

The first census of the county was taken in 1875 but, as the township was not organized and no places of residences were given in the unorganized townships, it is hard to determine who lived in the township at that time.

The next census was taken in 1880 but, as the census taker at that time grouped the three townships, Cameron, Lowville, and Chanarambie, together, it is impossible to separate the settlers as to which townships they lived in. In 1879 Chanarambie had a population of 131, Lowville 71, and Cameron 124.

The first census of record of Chanarambie township was taken in 1885 by S. Barrows, including the village of Lake Wilson which was started in 1883. The village and the township had a population of 185.

In the township and village there were only thirty-three families listed. Here are the names of the families as taken by the census taker.

J. Bissett, E. Bragdon, C. Annis, O. Thompson, M. Webster, Dan McHahon, A. Dahl, Ole Olson, Mary Olson, O. Barrows, J. P. Ryan, J. Shields, A. N. Snider, Chas. Sargeant, E. Morgan, M. Gunderson, H. Stanley, Casper Lang, J. W. Bragdon, J. G. Rumet, R. F. Morley, Eric Peterson, John Conway, James Gilfillan, M. Nelson, Wm. Luce, S. Barrows, J. K. Howe, C. Dudley, S. N. Phelps, W. T. Warren, Ben Warren, Henry Uebersetzig, Hans Johnson and L. Anthonson.



"The Very Latest" back in the days of 1905

One of the outstanding figures in Chanarambie township was R. T. Morley who had a claim west of town. He craved to be Justice of the Peace, a position which carried some dignity and a lot of cash for those days. There were twenty cases in Justice of Peace courts in the 1880's to where there is one today. A dignified old cuss was R. T. He lived in a shack about 12x14 and when you went to get out papers against a neighbor, Mr. Morley gravely asked you to step into his office. He had drawn a white chalk line across the floor near a table and when you stepped over the chalk line you were in his office. Law suits were a sort of escape valve in the summer as were revivals in the winter. The writer served as Justice of Peace in the township and during the eight years there were plenty of law suits,

most of them petty. There were also eight marriages at two of which Sheriff Lowe happened to be best man.

The oldest settler of Chanarambie township is Mrs. S. Barrows who now makes her home at Chandler. The Barrows family came to Murray County in 1880. The late Mr. Barrows took an active part in community affairs and for over twenty years served as county commissioner. Mrs. Barrows was the most active in church work of any of the old settlers. They lost a son, Ezra, in World War I. His remains were brought back from France and interred in Hillside cemetery south of Lake Wilson.

One of the famous baseball teams of western Murray County was "The Beavers." This team was composed largely of young lads from farms in Chanarambie and Cameron townships. Here is a list of the names of the members of the team and extra players given us by a former player. Art Baack, pitcher; Ed. Nissen, catcher; Herman Nissen, 1st; Elmer Deden, 2nd; Arnold Lang, 3rd; Wm. Aderhold, S. S.; Lars Bondhus, C. F. Fred Von der Heit, R.; and John Harmsen, L.; Substitutes, Carl Nissen and Fred Bose. This team was a heavy hitting outfit and won 12 out of 13 games in 1912. A. J. Ottilie was manager of the team.

Revivals in the winter were another escape valve. Holmes and Graves, revivalists, had them standing in the corners and the entrance. A powerful talker was Holmes and a sweet singer was Graves. He afterwards killed off his hogs and was taken to St. Peter. At these gatherings all were urged to get up and relate their experiences. Some were humorous and some were sincere. Over in Leeds, these meetings led to a division of the township for a number of years. The settlers who lived south of the track had a regular McCoy-Hatfield feud with their neighbors on the north.

First Murder Committed in Chanarambie Twp.

The first and only murder on the records of Murray County was committed in Chanarambie township. The author of this volume was the justice of the peace for Chanarambie township. On Sunday evening, August 14, 1898, Ed Henniger came to town with his horse in a lather shouting, "A man has been

murdered just south of my place." We notified Sheriff Jim Lowe, got Constable R. D. Sprague and drove out to the farm about three miles west of town. The house was a shambles, blood on the walls, blood on the furniture, blood on the floor and in the doorstep lay the body of a man naked to the waist and covered with blood. Matt Nagler, the renter on the farm, had gone to a neighboring town on Saturday with his hired man, L. Volkel, who was evidently a tramp. They drank freely and brought home a keg of beer with them. Nagler hid the keg in a straw pile. The next day the hired man wanted some of the stale beer as he had "chipped in" his share.

Nagler refused to tell him where the keg was and a fight started. Volkel, so Nagler stated, was getting the best of him so he grabbed a butcher knife and plunged it into Volkel just below the heart and then left the house. Volkel started after him with an axe in his hand (so Nagler said), he followed him for several hundred feet but evidently was weakened by the loss of blood and started back to the house. He got as far as the door when he went down. He tore off his shirt and was trying to staunch the flow of blood when death came. Nagler ran across the fields to the Henniger place screaming, "I killed a man" and Henniger immediately came to town. Sheriff Lowe came out from Slayton, the coroner was notified and we spent the rest of the night at the farm. Nagler had his hearing Monday and Sheriff Lowe took him to Slayton. Dr. Morrel of Slayton and Dr. MacGillvary of Pipestone had the post mortem in the lumber office which stood just in front of the machine shop now occupied by L. M. Adams.

The case came up for trial at the December term of court in 1898 and naturally Nagler pleaded "not guilty." Bob Grass was the attorney for the prisoner and B. H. Whitney, the county attorney, was the prosecutor. The case was tried before Judge P. E. Brown. The jury brought in a verdict of self defense; there were no witnesses that saw or even heard the fight. Curt Norton was the foreman of the jury.

Public opinion was pretty well against Nagler. He was of a quarrelsome, moody disposition, and the statements he made after the killing created the opinion that it was plain murder. He sold out his personal property and left the country soon after the trial.

Volkel was buried in the Potters field in Hillside Cemetery by the county.

WESTERN MURRAY COUNTY HISTORY • MURRAY COUNTY, MINNESOTA

FIRST ROAD IN MURRAY COUNTY

The first road through this section of the county was the government trail from New Ulm to Fort Thompson, South Dakota. The road entered at the northeast part of the county, crossing the Des Moines River at the foot of Lake Shetek, then crossing over what is now Poverty Hill in Mason township. Then westward, passing the Bear Lakes at the southern tip and on through what is now Lowville and Cameron townships to the Buffalo ridge and from thence down into what is now Pipestone county. The huge ruts made in the trail by the big government wagons, which were pulled by three yoke of oxen, were plainly seen in Cameron township on the prairie at the top of the ridge as late as the '80's.

WESTERN MURRAY COUNTY HISTORY . MURRAY COUNTY, MINNESOTA

Water Was a Problem in Later Years

In the seventies and early eighties there was plenty of water available. Wells were mere makeshifts; merely a hole in the ground and the well covered by logs. In later years the water level decreased and deeper wells were dug by hand. Some of them were stoned up and when lumber came curbing was made of wood. The next step was the well auger; this machine would go down to nearly 100 feet. The auger was run by a horse. It would bore a well two and a half feet across. This type of well was curbed by six-inch beveled boards. Then came the well drill of six or eight inch wells. This type is what is in use in our section in 1947.

WESTERN MURRAY COUNTY HISTORY • MURRAY COUNTY, MINNESOTA

The only limestone kiln of record in Murray County was on section 34 in Lake Sarah township. It was on the John Swenson farm. Mr. Swenson only burned one kiln a year.

CAMERON TOWNSHIP

For some reason unknown, Cameron township was one of the best settled townships in Murray County in the old days.

The first official notice is that of W. H. Bennett, appearing before the county commissioners at Currie on Sept. 19th, 1878, with a petition signed by fifteen voters praying that 107-43 be organized and that the name of the new township be called "Stanley." The first meeting was held at the home of D. Connors. In the census of 1880 there was a population of 124 in the township. Just five years later another census was taken and Cameron had lost three residents. The census was taken by Guy Stedman who was an uncle of the late Bert Peters. He filed his report on May 27th, 1885. Here are the names that appeared on the first census:

Guy Stedman, Wm. Cann, David Hood, Chas. McSherry, Tom Farrel, Chas. Grant, Pete McSherry, Pat Gildea (in later years he became a representative in the legislature), Geo. H. Smith (father of the present postmaster at Lake Wilson), W. S. Pattinson, J. W. Shadbolt, Chas. Welch, Wm. Wilson, Mrs. Adeline Miller, Jas. Jackson, Wm. Wright, J. M. Pullen, Chas. Cole, Jerry Baker, Tom Gildea, Bill Sabin, John Thompson, James Bell, James Forrest (father of the writer of this volume), C. Thompson, Wm. Stedman, J. W. Parshall, H. Scovel (the post office was named after him), and Davy Guy.

Cameron Township was settled in the late '70's mostly by civil war veterans and "sooners." Sooners were men with their faces always toward a setting sun. They disliked neighbors and when they had a neighbor nearer than two miles they just itched to get away from the crowds. Jerry Baker was typical of those men. He wore a swallow tail coat that had once been black, chewed tobacco incessantly, trapped and fished and was a great visitor. Whenever there was a building or post nearby, Jerry would aim to get there and with his back against it, would pour forth rivers of wisdom about things he knew nothing about. The maddest we ever saw Jerry was at a threshing machine. The threshing machine days were the social events of the years. Jerry was pulling "sticks" (two men would sit facing one another. They held a broom stick in their hands and the game was to pull your opponent over your head.) We

saw Jerry matched one day against the top notch puller and, when they started, some of us kids stood on the tails of Jerry's swallow tail coat. There were two or three grunts and Jerry flew over the head of his opponent, but the tails of his swallow tail coat, that he had had ever since he left Missouri, were not with him. He soon left for the plains where "there weren't so danged many neighbors."

The first wave of settlers was succeeded by a bunch of settlers who came in 1882-83. This new wave came from Scotland, brought here through the solicitation of the Scottish American Land Colonization Company which had agents in many parts of Scotland extolling the fertile soil of Murray County. The company owned large tracts of land in Pipestone and Murray Counties. Thirty-five people who were among the 121 of the 1885 census were born in Scotland. There was only one Scandinavian in the township and he was a Dane. Most of the Scottish people did not take kindly to the long cold winters and soon returned to Scotland.

For years a postoffice was maintained on the place just south of the C. F. Sierk farm. It was called Scovell, after the first postmaster. J. W. Parshall was postmaster in 1885. This postoffice was on the overland mail route from Currie to Pipestone and included Mason, Lowville (where Oran Jones now lives), and Scovell.

This mail route was maintained for a number of years after the railroad had reached Pipestone, as it served people far from towns.

Among the big men in the township in the early days was Phillip Stanley. He was of the go-getter type, took an active part in affairs, had a cane mill and had the township named after him. But they ganged up on him. They argued that the township should not be named after any of the settlers. Charley Cole, a shrewd Yankee with a lot of native ability, moved that the township be called "Cameron." In later years the folks found out that Cameron was Charley's middle name. Some of those old guys weren't so dumb. Among the early mail carriers were B. M. Low, M. D. Mason, and R. Boomhower. These men faced real perils during the winter months when the blizzards swept unheeded, without corn fields, groves or

snow fences—just the barren prairie. They felt their way by instinct.

Claim jumping was the first athletic sport. An ambitious settler would come out in the summer or fall and take up a claim. The law only allowed the settler to be gone so long from this homestead and when they overstayed the limit, many of them returned and found out that their farm was gone, so they looked for another. Bill Sabin jumped the Pete Smith claim (now owned by Mrs. A. Edmundson) but Pete, who had studied law by the light of a tallow candle, had taken plenty of land. Pete got to be county attorney and his son, A. D., was Superintendent of Schools a number of years. Pete was a typical western lawyer. He could stand in a store or bar and discuss Blackstone until the lights went out, but he was a grand fellow at heart and died on the farm north of town, where he learned his law.

Looking over the many fine town boards of the last fifty years the pick of the bunch would go to Cameron township when Wm. Scott, John Heins, W. S. Pattinson and Rolf Harmsen guided the destinies of the township. 'They were clear headed, efficient and a capable bunch of men and rendered Cameron splendid service.

Cameron has had two churches and both suffered the same fate—being destroyed by storms. The first church, which was built in 1891, was hit by a small tornado and scattered over the prairie. A second church, which was built two years later, was blown down in a gale of wind. These storms discouraged the members of the St. John's Lutheran Church and four years later, to get away from the Cameron hoodoo, they built a church in Lowville township just four miles east of where the second church was erected. This church is still standing. Gus Zieman and Miss Minnie Dettmer were the first couple married in the first church built and Wm. Helmke and Lena Dettmer were the first couple married in the second church in Cameron.

Back in the early days, leaders in the group of Germans built a social hall in the north part of the township. For many years they enjoyed the pleasant gatherings at the hall. The whole family would go and spend the Sunday afternoons and evenings. Dances were started and enjoyed for several years.

Young folks, some from nearby towns, brought in modern dances and a little more life than the promoters were used to, and the hall gradually folded up.

The oldest living resident of Cameron township is Mrs. W. S. Pattinson of Slayton. The Pattinsons came to Cameron Township from Scotland in the fall of 1883. The late Mr. Pattinson was prominent in township affairs. He served as county commissioner from this district for 12 years. He was instrumental in bringing black cattle into this section. The Pattinsons left the farm several years ago, but Mrs. Pattinson still owns two farms in the township. Of the family three sons remain: William, James and Donald.

The only fence of the kind we have ever seen in this section was constructed on what is now the C. F. Sierk place. Back in the '70's Phillip Stanley homesteaded the place. He had a bunch of calves one year and had neither barb wire, posts nor boards. So he made his fence out of sod. He piled the sod up three feet high and three feet wide around the pasture, then plowed a couple of furrows in the inside close up to the sods. It made an effective fence when the calves were young and the only cost was the labor.

Stanley's first house was a semi-log and sod affair. He planted a few trees some of which are still left. The farmers came to the Stanley place frequently in the early fall. He had a cane mill and the farmers would bring in the sugar cane with enough wood to keep the tanks going and they would turn out a supply of sorghum. Stanley lived on the southeast corner of the quarter.

WESTERN MURRAY COUNTY HISTORY • MURRAY COUNTY, MINNESOTA

Murray County Known to White Men in 1820

This area was well known to white men, even before the construction of the American Fur Trading post at Bear Lakes.

According to early maps when this section was in the states of Wisconsin and Iowa, there is an "official" map published by the Federal government that depicts a trail which crosses Murray County, north and south.

It was called the William Dickson and Lewis Musick trail of 1822. According to the map this trail was used by drovers when they took cattle and sheep to the far north.

The trail came up the west side of the Des Moines river. On this trail map the Bear Lakes are named Otter Lakes. Sheep and cattle from Missouri were driven northward to Pembina for the Hudson Bay colony. The journal of the Indian agent at Fort Snelling discloses that drovers with cattle got lost on the prairie and they left the livestock. They were later picked up at Lac Qui Parle. That was in June 1828. A big drove of sheep, being driven up to the Hudson Bay colony, was abandoned in 1833.

The journal of Taliaferro, the Indian agent at Snelling, contains mention of Indians finding the body of a well dressed white man on the upper Des Moines in 1831.

WESTERN MURRAY COUNTY HISTORY . MURRAY COUNTY, MINNESOTA

THERE WAS PLENTY TO EAT IN 1836

Catlin, the great Indian painter and explorer, had met La Framboise in 1835 at Prairie du Chien, Wis., and became interested in western Murray county and the Pipestone quarries. He promised La Framboise he would visit him the next year. In his diary Catlin tells of his arrival at the Bear Lakes in 1836 and his welcome. He wrote: "La Framboise was surprised and pleased when our party galloped up to the post, and standing in the gate of the trading post said 'I assure you gentlemen this is the happiest moment of my life. I cannot give you feather beds to sleep on; but I have plenty of buffalo robes. We can give you plenty of buffalo meat and tongues, wild geese and ducks, prairie hens, trout, young swan, beaver tails, pigeons, plums, grapes, young bear, some green corn, squash, onions, water melons and pommes des terres (potatoes), some coffee and some tea. There is plenty of sport here, and in a short distance you will find buffalo." If Catlin was sticking to the truth, something that few explorers did, he must have been pretty well filled up before he started across the prairies for the Pipestone quarries. Most explorers were a little inclined to exaggerate.

Early History of Lowville Township

No township in Murray County or in Minnesota is as rich in history as Lowville township. It was the first section settled in the western part of the county and yet it was the most sparsely settled in the middle '70's.

Soil of Lowville township was the first cultivated in the county. The Indians had planted corn and pumpkins here for generations and La Framboise planted potatoes and other vegetables here in 1834.

When the Low brothers came here in the sixties they settled in the Bear Lake timber and Bart planted his first garden in soil that had been cleared by the Indians hundreds of years before.

A petition was filed with the county board signed by John H. Low and 11 other legal voters asking the county board to organize township 107-42. The first meeting was held at the home of W. Ingalls and the township was named in honor of the Low brothers, the first settlers.



The Mihin Homestead Built by Mike Mihin in 1872, in Lowville Township

B. M. Low was the first census taker. The first census was taken in 1875. At that time there were only twelve families in the township. The names of the settlers who signed the petition for the organization of the township were: W. H. Ingalls, Michael Mihin, S. Manchester, Frank Stevens, B. M. Low, Jas. Cartwright, H. G. Stanley, John Soules, Norman Jones, John Low, G. T. Gray and C. Williams.

Lowville was almost a native born American township, only two signers having been born abroad, Michael Mihin in Ireland and G. T. Gray in England.

For years the township, or rather that area surrounding the lakes, had been one of the finest hunting and trapping grounds in the middle west.

John and Bart Low did a lot of trapping in the late '60's and they had long trap lines. John's line ran to the south, down the outlet of the south Bear Lake into the Beaver and he followed the Beaver Creek to a point where Currie now stands. He also trapped in Slaughter Slough where the Indians killed many of the early settlers in the raid of 1862. He trapped Slaughter Slough in 1867-8. Bart had the north trap line and went as far north as where Lynd now stands. The lines were so long that they could not be made in a day, so crude shelters were made along the trap lines.

The large amount of land in the township covered by water kept the number of early settlers low when compared to the other townships. These lakes and sloughs were the attraction for hundreds of hunters, not only locally, but from other nearby towns and villages.

As far back as fifty years ago, sportsmen from some of the towns erected hunting shacks in the woods and the hunters and fishermen would take turns during the open season. Luverne, Pipestone and Slayton all maintained hunting camps at the lakes and what loads of game those early hunters got! Take hunters like Doc Williams, Doc. Baker and J. K. Bennett of Slayton. Zealous hunters they were! Several times, owing to the muck in the bottom of the lake, they were not able to carry all their ducks to the shore when dusk came and would have to wait and make another trip in the morning.

The natural stand of timber, the best in the southwest, was a boon to the pioneers. Many of the first settlers bought an acre from the Low brothers and the timber furnished wood for many a log cabin and fuel during the winter months.

When the big ditch was started thirty years ago, the Bear Lakes passed out of the picture as a hunting, trapping and fishing area. The ditch has been only partially successful. The sifting sands and dirt and the growth of trees and weeds in the bottom of the ditch have lessened its effectiveness.

When Nature Was at Her Very Best



A sketch of a nook in Bear Lake in the late sixties

The Bear Lake timber was a pleasure resort for the early settlers. The tall stately trees, the adjoining lakes, the woods full of gooseberries, choke cherries, currants and plums made it an ideal spot for picnics, Fourth of July celebrations, etc. There were sailboats on the lakes during the celebration, programs, orations, big feeds, lemonade by the barrel, stirred with a spade, and the memory of these gatherings is hard to erase from the memories of the youngsters of those days who are still living today. To many people it seemed like vandalism to cut down the fine timber and destroy the beauty of the surroundings, but civilization has but little sentiment.

One of the men who has been closely associated with this section for seventy years is Charley Aspeline. He and his brother trapped the lakes for years and in the winter of 1907-08 their take of muskrats was over 18,000. Even as late as 1904 the lakes furnished a lot of rats and Fred Gass took over 1,000 pelts that winter.

A postoffice was established on the west side of the north lake in 1877. The first postoffice was part dug-out and part sod. L. Manchester was the first postmaster. He sold out in two years to James Bissett who, after holding the office for a few years, traded it to Evan Jones for a farm near Lake Benton. Mr. Jones was postmaster until the office was discontinued. Mr. Jones also kept a stock of groceries and dry goods. Oran Jones now lives on the place where the old settlers got their mail for years. Being close to the lake bank, many Indians were seen by the folks, going for their mail, sometimes as many as a hundred in the group, but they were friendly; they had not forgotten the defeats of 1862-63.

The wave of settlers that came to Lowville township in the late '80's brought a lot of good men to the township. Among them was level headed, steady and substantial August Erickson; George Vallance, a keen-witted, hustling Yankee and Albert Oberg, who really did more to hasten the hog movement in this section than any other man. Then there was A. Olin, physically handicapped though he was, who left his imprint on the community for better farming and better living.

The first schoolhouse was built in the timber. It was 12x14. There were no desks or tables. The kids sat on wooden benches. Reading, writing and arithmetic were the only subjects. There were no maps, no globes — not much of anything. Amelia Cleveland was the first teacher. The kids would walk four miles to school. Wm. Lowe also taught in the school in the timber.

Among the descendants of the signers of the organization petition living in this section are Marshall Low and his daughter Mrs. E. (Pauline) Allinson, and the Mihin family.

The Oldest House in Murray County

The oldest house in Murray County, the house that has been occupied continuously since the day the logs were put in place eighty-one years ago is on the farm now owned and occupied by John J. Harmsen and family.

The log house (it was larger than the log and sod cabin of the early days) was built out of the best logs available in Bear Lake timber by John H. Low in 1866.

There was more than one room in the house and the logs are still in a perfect state of preservation. They have long since been covered with siding and no one would suspect that the fine home today is built of logs.

The old house came in mighty handy for the stork. In the late fall of 1880 the William Foster family of Winona County was driving through in a covered wagon to the sod house just across the line in Pipestone county which Mr. Foster had built in the summer months. It was October 24 when they came to the John Low place and asked to stay all night. During the night the stork came and left a boy who is now Bill Foster of Lake Wilson. The weather was bad: snowy and cold, and John Low, with the friendly spirit of the pioneer, said to Mr. Foster, "You go on, the family is not able to travel." Foster went on and Mrs. Foster and children stayed at the Low home until spring. That's hospitality.

The old place has seen many changes. It was built on the prairie just outside of the woods as a safety or protective measure against Indian attacks.

While the Indians had made no hostile advances since 1862 there were always that dread and fear and always those folks who loved to spread rumors. Indians from the Dakotas came to the lake in good sized numbers and John told us of getting up in the morning and seeing fifty tepees standing between the house and the lake. The farm yard and the small pasture were fenced with all wooden fences. Logs were split into three inch thick posts. With a small adze, good sized holes, three in each post, were made. After they were put in the ground, saplings

were thrust into the hole from both sides. No nails or wire were used in the construction of the fence. There is only one place that antedates the Low home in Murray County. That is the Koch cabin at Teepotah. This place was built in 1861 but was in a state of decay for many years and was kept more as a relic than for dwelling purposes.

WESTERN MURRAY COUNTY HISTORY . MURRAY COUNTY, MINNESOTA

Women Cleaned Up the Town in the Good Old Days

The women took it on themselves in the old days to clean up the towns and villages, not in a moral sense but by keeping the sidewalks clean. Every woman wore long skirts and when we say long, we mean just that. No righteous woman would ever think of going down the village streets unless the hem of her skirt swept the dust from the streets and wooden sidewalks. Some were even so timid that they sewed heavy iron washers in the hem of the skirt to keep it down. Everything was left to the imagination. One fellow told the writer that he never knew his wife had ankles until they were married. There has been a noticeable change in recent years:

WESTERN MURRAY COUNTY HISTORY • MURRAY COUNTY, MINNESOTA

In the Days When We Were Cave Dwellers

Through some queer freak of nature the western part of the county was in the tornado belt in the 1890's. Tornadoes would hit this section sometimes three or four times a year. Fortunately they were small, but they were powerful enough to level big barns, churches, etc., scattering the debris for miles. They generally came from the southwest and when the sky got that greenish grey tint, we all hustled to the "cyclone" cellars. For we were cave dwellers; nearly every farmer had one close by the house. These caves, or cellars, were five to six feet deep and covered with sod or had just a plain dirt roof, level with the top of the ground. Most of the cellars had two doors, and we'd all bustle to the caves and pull the doors behind us. There were little ventilators in the roof so there was no danger of suffocation. We stayed there until the storm passed. A change in the "cyclone" weather saw the caves being used for root houses; now they are only a memory.



The "Bull Ditchers," the first ditching outfit to make this section. They were here in 1900



Ditching machine pulled by a cable round a capstan in 1905

About that time, which evidently was our storm period, came the lightning rod man. He generally followed in the wake of a storm with his helper and big spools of copper wire. Many a farm house was wired and they did a lot of good, mentally. They too have passed on, and now one seldom sees a rodded house. Some of the old rod men were "sharpers." You would sign up an order for wiring and after the job was done you found out you had a signed note for four times as much and it had been cashed at the local bank

WESTERN MURRAY COUNTY HISTORY • MURRAY COUNTY, MINNESOTA

EARLY DITCHING

When the weather pendulum swung downwards about fifty years ago and water once more covered the sloughs and low places, the farmer turned to some kind of method of getting rid of the water. There were no tilers at that time so the water stood on the land until a bull ditching outfit came through this section in 1900. This ditching outfit was nothing but a big plow, pulled by twenty yoke of oxen. The outfit ditched the slough north of the platted portion of Lake Wilson, and when at work was a real show for the youngsters until the parents happened to hear the outfit at work. The bull punchers or whackers were gaunt, hairy fellows with whips almost as long as a cane fishpole and they could make the snapper crack like a rifle shot. Besides being picturesque they were the world's champions, when it came to using oaths. They were the most colorful bunch of swearers ever heard in this section and there were members of the home guard, that had advanced beyond the amateur class. When the going got tough the bull whackers would run up and down the line of oxen flicking tufts of hair and skin from the hide of the oxen with their powerful whips. Skillful guys those whackers were; they could snap a fly from the oxen when they were thirty feet away and never touch the hide. This type of ditch soon filled up and ten years later another outfit came through. This one had a bigger and better plow. It was operated by a huge cable which was wound around a big capstan by four teams of horses. It moved slowly and in the end gave but little relief; dirt, weeds, etc. clogging the ditch.

When Murray County Towns That Never Existed, Voted

In the early days, that is back in 1857, Minnesota was a seething mass of land hungry men that were filled with the same aim; to get a home for themselves and families.

The settlement of new states always attracted a lot of speculators, some good and some bad. The main one that worked in this section was the Dakota Land Company. Not only did they try to control legislatures here but in what was to be South Dakota. They also tried to take over all the attractive town sites and planned on controlling the politics as well. Minnesota attracted a lot of able, brilliant men and some that were just the opposite. Some of these men got into the legislature, good and bad alike. With the encouragement of the Dakota company a large section of the southwestern part of the state was divided or rather established into counties. One of the members was William Pitt Murray, and this county was named by him. That was in 1857. Mr. Murray had the good fortune at the next legislature to have that body set aside for him a section of land at the south side of Lake Shetek. He planned to build a beautiful town which was named "Cornwall City," but was later changed to "Canwell City."

A depression in the east put an end to the speculation in western lands and the towns of "Canwell City" at Lake Shetek and "Oasis" at Bear Lakes were supposed to be dead. Both of these places, however, were to secure a place of fame in the coming election. Politics were never as hot in Minnesota as they were in 1857. The fight for governor and territorial delegate was bitter, and it was very evident that the men back of the scheme were for Sibley for governor and Kingsbury for territorial representative.

The election at which the State Constitution was adopted and the first State officers were chosen, was held throughout the territory on October 13, 1857. Returns, endorsed as correct by the register of Brown County, credited Murray county with 75 votes for Henry H. Sibley as Governor and 59 votes for W. W. Kingsbury for territorial delegate to Congress. During the election fraud battle which followed, schedules were certified

from the southwestern counties for the census which was taken to determine the size of Minnesota's representation in Congress. The signer of the schedules was the same man who had reported the election returns. Ninety-one people living in sixteen dwellings were listed as inhabitants of "Cornwall City," Murray county. Not long afterwards the purported vote from the southwestern counties for Governor was thrown out by a special board, but the vote for territorial delegate was duly canvassed. The election having been settled, nothing further was heard of the mythical 91 inhabitants and 75 voters in "Canwell City."

Years ago while in New Ulm, Fred W. Johnson, the historian, showed the writer a crude letter written in pen and ink in 1857 containing the results of the fictitious election at "Oasis" at Bear Lake, and if we remember rightly, the entire 30 votes of "Oasis" were cast for Sibley and Kingsbury. The town of "Oasis" like the town of "Canwell City" never existed. Not one white person lived here in 1857. They were clever and capable crooks, those men who devised this scheme, and they went the limit doctoring the project almost to a reality. They even built up a census of Canwell City. Here it is from a copy of the returns as certified by the United States Marshal.

Census of Inhabitants of Cornwall City in the County of Murray, Territory of Minnesota, enumerated by me this 27 day of October, A. D., 1857.

N. R. Brown, Ass't. Marshal.

*	**	Name A	Age	Sex	Color	Birthplace	***	**** Occup.
I	1	Parker K. Anderson	35	\mathbf{M}	*	N. Carolina	I	* Blacksmith
		Lewis Howe	24	\mathbf{M}	*	Mass.	1	* Laborer
		Orson Rodgers	27	\mathbf{M}	*	Ohio	I	* Laborer
2	2	Wm. L. Lawrance	29	\mathbf{M}	*	Vermont	1	* Farmer
		Patrick Coulder	24	\mathbf{M}	*	Ireland		1 Laborer
		James Northrup	31	\mathbf{M}	*	Main	I	Carpenter
3	3	Frederick Warndrof	33	\mathbf{M}	*	Germany		1 Farmer
		Caroline Warndrof	28	F	*	Germany		
		Frederick Warndrof	8	\mathbf{M}	*	Ohio		
		Martha Warndrof	5	\mathbf{F}	*	Ohio		
		John Warndrof	3	\mathbf{M}	*	Ohio		
		Mary Warndrof9/	12	F	*	Iowa		
		Jacob Warndrof		\mathbf{M}	*	Germany		Farmer
4	4	Robert Kickenhaus		\mathbf{M}	. *	Germany		1 Farmer

	Peter Loftus	M M M	**	Germany Pennsylvania New Jersey			Laborer Laborer Farmer
5 5	Wm. S. Sowren44 Patience Sowren39	F	*	Kentucky	Α.		1 armer
	Powers Sowren22	\dot{M}	25	Ohio	1		Farmer
	Rebecka Sowren19	F	ボ	Michigan			
	Ruth Sowren16	F	*	Michigan			
	Luther Sowren11	M	*				
	John W. Sowren8	M	米	Illinois			
	Robert Sowren6	\mathbf{M}	*	Illinois			
	Sarah Sowren4	F	*	Illinois			
	Timothy Sowren	\mathbf{M}	米	Iowa			
6 6	Robert Conway29	\mathbf{M}	415	New York	I		Farmer
	James Buckner24	М	*	Vermont	I		Laborer
	James Conway26	\mathbf{M}	*	New York	I		Farmer
	Riges Knox27	M	*	Main	I		Laborer
7 7	Charles W. Lawrance34	M	米	Vermont	I		Farmer
	Moses Moran56	M	*	Upper Canad			Baker
	Cantwell Cobb22	M	*		I		Shoemaker
	Roger Knox34	M	*	Main	I		Teamster
8 8	Thomas Carter28	M	*	Pennsylvania	I		Farmer
	Lydia Ann Carter23	F	*	Ohio			
	Lafayette Carter5	M	*	Indiana			
	Mary Ann Carter2	F	*	Indiana			
	Martha Jane Carter1/12	F	*	Minn.			T.
	Horace Carter18	M	*	Penn.			Farmer
	Robert Johnson27	M	*	Kentucky	I		Laborer
9 9	Wm. Huffman36 Louisa Huffman24	M F	*	Delaware			Merchant
	Robert Huffman	M	*	Delaware Delaware			
	Emiley Huffman6	F	*	D. of C.			
	Lena J. Huffman4	F	*	D. of C.			
	Richard Huffman6/12	$\dot{\mathrm{M}}$	*	Minn.			
	E. Pierce	M	*	Delaware	I		Clerk
10 10	Silas W. Kent27	M	*	Ohio	I		Wgn. mkr.
10 10	Wm. S. Rogers23	M	*	Ohio	I		Wgn. mkr.
11 11	Lewis S. Mires32	M	*	New York	I		Hotel Kpr.
	Nancy Mires29	F	*	Indiana	•		Trotter Tepr.
	Malinda Mires10	F	*	Indiana			
	Rose Ann Mires7	F	*	Indiana			
	Lydia Jane Mires	F	*	Iowa			
	Adolphus John Mires2	\mathbf{M}	*	Iowa			
	Catherine Pulewruff19	F	*	Germany			
	Christine Revustein27	F	*	Bavaria			
	Alexandria Cartner27	$\dot{\mathbf{M}}$	*	Nova Scotia	т	T	Plasterer
	Mortimer Wagner28	M	*	New York	I	1	Physician
	L. James Parness29	M	*	Kentucky			_ ~
	S. K. Butters30	M	*		I		Grocer
			*	Vermont	I		Saddler
	Joseph Hyde22	M	- Mc	Main	Ι		Laborer

	John Kasall25	\mathbf{M}	*	New York	I	Carpenter
	Wm. Newcomb24	\mathbf{M}	*	Rhode Island	T	Joiner
	Horace Ostend27	\mathbf{M}	*	Mass.	ī	¥ 1
	Reuben Woodruff24	\mathbf{M}	*	Conn.	I	* .
	Robert Weston30	M	*	Ohio	ī	C)
	J. W. Smith23	M	*	Indiana	ī	Bricklayer
12 12	Abraham Heins34	$\widetilde{\mathbf{M}}$	*	Virginia	I	Miller
	Randolph Heins 22	M	*	Virginia	I	Sawyer
	John Rowe	M	*	Penn.	I	Millwright
	Mark Hammond30	M	*	New York	I	
	Mariah Hammond27	F	*	New York		Dawyer
	James Wm. Hammond3	\dot{M}	*	New York		
	Elizabeth Hammond10/12	F	*	Indiana		
	Kenneth McLam 24	$\dot{\mathrm{M}}$	*	Ireland		1 Laborer
	Jones Ricker24	M	*	Ohio	Y	Laborer
	Frederick Spoo28	M	*	Germany	r	1 Laborer
13 13	John Snider29	M	*	Penn.	7	
13 13	Rodolph Rouse32	M	*	Penn.	I	70
14 14	Michael McBride	M	*	Ireland	1	1 Farmer
15 15	K. S. Stubbens 24	M	*	7	, I	
15 15	Haskall Stubbens30	M	*	Michigan	Ţ	T-1
	Peter Knister	M	*	Germany	1	1 Laborer
	Abraham Knister33	M	*	Germany		1 Laborer
16 16	Frederick Randolph23	M	*	Germany		1 Farmer
10 10		E	*			1 Farmer
	Katherine Randolph1	M	*	Germany Atlantic		
	Frederick Randolph52		*			T. I. ohonon
	Peter Karl	M	*	Germany		I Laborer
	Abraham Karl26	\mathbf{M}	*,*	Germany		1 Laborer

No. of Inhabitants 91

No. of Dwellings, 16

Territory of Minnesota)

County of Ramsey N. R. Brown being duly sworn deposes and says that he took the census of Murray county, M. T., and made the returns thereof and the same are correct and according to the instructions and the oath. (SEAL)

Subscribed and sworn to before me the 19th day of Nov. 1857.

Samuel S. Selby, Notary Public M. T.

I hereby certify that I have carefully examined and compared the returns of the census of Murray county, M. T., and that the same are correct.

St. Paul, Nov. 20, 1857.

William D. Gere, U. S. Marshal for Minn.

^{*} Dwellings numbered in order of visitation. ** Families in order of visitation. *** Voters; Native. **** Voters; Naturalized.

"LOST TIMBER"

Just when this stand of woods in one of the ravines on the north side of the Chanarambie valley received its name is not known, but it must have been several hundred years ago.

This stand of timber, just northwest of Chandler, starts on the fringes of Chanarambie township and is well below the level of the surrounding plateau. As the sides slope sharply, with only a short growth of grass, it helped protect the woods from the prairie fires. The woods are not visible until the traveler gets right on top of them.

The Sioux Indian name for the woods was "tchannarambe" meaning "Hidden Woods." The first map of this section which was made by a man named Keating in 1822 mentions "Coteau Des Prairies" and the "Hidden Woods." The voyageurs translated the Indian name to "Bois Cache."

No mention of the Hidden Woods seems to have appeared in the maps of the sixties and the early settlers in western Murray County were fortunate in stumbling onto the grove.

Several log cabins in western Leeds township were built of logs taken from the grove and many a load of firewood from this ravine helped to keep the settlers warm in the early seventies.

Both the township and the creek derive their names from the Indian name. Ever since the coming of the white settlers in the seventies these woods have been a favorite picnic spot.

A local legend has it that Jesse James and his brother, Frank, fleeing from the ill fated raid on a bank at Northfield, Minnesota, on Sept. 7th, 1876, escaped from the posse and fled westward, changing horses or rather taking them from the farmers, as they came west. They took a trail far from the railroads. They were with the bunch at the Madelia fight. The late Mrs. M. E. Lang, then a young girl, was herding cows along the southwest shores of Lake Shetek, when the James brothers rode up and asked her about the country and Lost Timber. They are alleged to have stayed several days at Lost Timber resting up, and one dark night made a dash for the Iowa line and from Iowa to their home in Missouri.

Muskrat Did Not Tempt Early Settlers

One of the odd features of the settlers was that no matter how hungry they were for meat they would never eat the flesh of the muskrat. This was true only of the Scandinavian settlers. The Americans, especially those of a second pioneer generation, enjoyed the muskrat meat. It was the cleanest animal on the prairie. Stewing or roasting was the favorite method for cooking. When J. E. Wilson was here in 1882, making final purchase of land, etc., he struck the H. C. Stanley farm at noon. The Stanley place was a mile south of town, where the substation now stands. It was nothing but a big slough, nevertheless it was land and that's what folks came west for. The Stanlevs asked Mr. Wilson and Mr. Bragdon, who was with Wilson. to dinner. There was stewed meat and potatoes for dinner. Mr. Wilson was an ardent church member and was highly pleased when asked to say grace. During the meal he commented highly on the food. After they had started home, Mr. Bragdon asked Mr. Wilson, "Did you know what kind of meat that was? That was stewed muskrat." And Mr. Wilson said in a pathetic and subdued tone, "And I said grace over a muskrat." While muskrat under the name of marsh rabbit is a staple article of food in Delaware and other eastern states the "wee beasties" as the Scotch called them were never popular in this section.

WESTERN MURRAY COUNTY HISTORY . MURRAY COUNTY, MINNESOTA

Oxen were used in western Murray county from the late sixties until 1891. Some oxen were driven single with a wooden yoke shaped like a horse collar. Some farmers had their oxen shod, and along towards the late "80's" they were driven with bridle and bit, but most of the drivers used "Haw" and "Gee."



FAMILY HISTORIES



THE LARS AGA FAMILY

Lars Aga was born in Aga, Hardanger, Norway. He came to America in 1910 and to Murray county in 1914. He was married to Margaret E. Vallance June 11, 1918. She was a daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. George Vallance, prominent early day settlers. Mr. Vallance took an active part in all township, county, and civic affairs.

Five children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Aga: Gordon Lewis, John Raymond, Anna Margaret, George Eugene, and Doris Marjorie.

Gordon saw a lot of service in World War II. He was attached to the 24th Mech. Cav. He was severely wounded at St. Lo. He has five battle stars, purple heart, etc.

John Raymond, born August 7, 1921, was a private in Co. D. Signal Corps Division.

Anna Margaret married Ralph Helmke September 26th, 1942. They have a daughter, Carol Ann. They live at Lake Wilson.

George Eugene was in the navy for a year and 11 months. He spent most of his service in the vicinity of Norfolk, Va. He was in the LSM rocket division.

Doris Marjorie was married to Vinal Severeid on March 23, 1946.

THE L. M. ADAMS FAMILY

Few men can boast as long an American ancestral line as L. M. Adams, better known as "Bunt." The Adamses came to America way back in the 1600's. But a pedigree does not mean as much to "Bunt" as a piece of International machinery, having been associated with that organization for almost a life time in various towns. Mr. Adams is a son of John Quincy Adams and Dora Yearington, both residents of New York, and was born in Houston county, August 31, 1876. He was united in marriage to Miss Anna Skaar, May 10, 1898. To this union three children were born: Hazel Lorena, November 4, 1899; John Quincy, June 27, 1913; Samuel Andrew, July 4, 1917. Mrs.

Adams passed away June 6, 1918, and Hazel died August 7, 1918.

John married Elsie Drenth, September 24, 1932. John specializes in tractor repair work.

Samuel Andrew Adams enlisted in the army September 1938. He was attached to the infantry and was a drill master for several years. He spent a year in the Hawaiian Islands, went overseas with the 84th Division. He was wounded in a booby trap explosion while searching a German house. Four men in the platoon were killed. He had a broken arm and hand, and sustained the loss of eyesight in one eye. After being hospitalized in England and U. S. he entered Teachers College at St. Cloud, December 1946. He has tried to re-enlist but was rejected.

Bunt came to Murray County April 1, 1906. Settling first at Slayton, was a blacksmith then went into the machine business. He has made his home in Lake Wilson since January 1, 1927.

THE HENRY W. ANDERSON FAMILY

Henry W. and Helen Anderson were born in Scotland. Both were teachers in schools around Aberdeen. Three children were born to them: Helen, Alex, and Henry. In the year of 1882 they came to America and settled in Osceola County in Iowa. In 1901 they moved to Murray County and settled in Chanarambie Township. In 1906 they moved to the farm where their son, Henry, still resides. Alex met death accidentally while working on the farm in 1906. Mr. Anderson died in the year of 1919 and Mrs. Anderson continued to live on the farm until her death in 1938.

Their daughter, Helen, was a teacher and taught in Iowa and Minnesota. In 1912 she was married to A. L. Partridge and in 1914 moved to Wisconsin. They have one daughter, Ruth.

Henry attended the Agriculture School in St. Paul in the winter of 1909. He was married August 27, 1913 to Alice Kench, early settler of Chanarambie township. They have five children: Francis J., Margaret L., Elsie M., Florence H., and Laura E. Francis, after graduating from the high school

at Lake Wilson, is farming with his father. He was married in 1938 to Eunice York and has two children: Nancy Kathryn and Byron James. Margaret attended the Calhoun Secretarial school in Minneapolis and is now working in the First National Bank at Lake Wilson. Elsie is a graduate nurse of Asbury Hospital in Minneapolis and got her R.N. degree in 1943. She is now working as an assistant in a doctor's office in Minneapolis. Florence attended the Mankato Teachers College. She taught in the rural schools of Murray county and in 1942 was married to Robert B. Peterson of Ruthton. They have two children: Pamela Ann and Phillip Owen. Laura is taking nurses' training at Asbury Hospital in Minneapolis.

THE W. E. ADERHOLD FAMILY

William E. Aderhold came to the United States with his parents, Herman H. Aderhold and Mina M. Aderhold in 1882. They first settled at Streator, Ill., moving to Murray County, Minnesota in March 1900.

William Aderhold started farming for himself in 1908 and for many years took an active part in agriculture development. He made a success of farming and built a modern set of buildings. He was united in marriage to Miss Henrietta J. Kruse, June 10, 1908. To this union five children were born: Lloyd W., born July 16th, 1909; Alice A., born July 23, 1911; Maynard H., born October 18, 1912; Erna N., born September 23, 1915; Richard R., born July 3, 1923.

Lloyd has a B.A. degree from Concordia college, attended the Minnesota and Northwestern universities and was principal of several schools in northern Minnesota. A longing for the farm brought him back to Murray County and he has been farming here for the last ten years.

Alice A. attended Normal at Slayton, and taught school for four years. She married William Buldhaupt in April, 1933. They have two children: Marion L., born September 21, 1935, and Paul W., born July 15, 1939. They live on the old homestead.

Maynard received his B.A. degree at Concordia, majored in Commercial Business at Fargo college, taught school six

years, went into service in northern Alaska as camp supervisor. He was attached to Inf. Hdqrs. 338th Inf. 3rd Battn., was in Italy for two years. He is now attached to the Civil Service at Minneapolis. He married Mary Schmitt of Jordan on October 1940. They have one daughter, Antonia L., born March 20, 1942.

Erna M. after attending normal took nurses training at Fairview hospital, Minneapolis. She was married to John Gerald Murray on May 14, 1940. They have two children: Michael J., May 15, 1942; Jeanne L., May 27, 1944. They live at Parker's Prairie, Minnesota where J. Gerald manages the Murray Store.

Richard attended Western Union college at Le Mars, Iowa, from there he entered the service. In 1942 he took up flying and was attached to the 4th Photo Reconn. Long Range (air echelon), did work over most of the principal battle fields in the Pacific. Is now a patient at Coral Gables, Fla. (He has been attached to the World's Map Cart.)

Herman H. Aderhold was born in Marienthal, Germany, March 4, 1857, died at his home near Lake Wilson, May 15, 1910. His wife who was born August 24, 1856 makes her home with her son in Pipestone. The Wm. E. Aderholds moved to Pipestone February 1, 1945.

THE OLE ALECKSON FAMILY

We asked one of the early settlers some time ago, "Who was the most useful man in the community?" He answered, "Well, the man that stands out in my mind is Ole Aleckson. There was nothing he could not do."

Ole Aleckson while a boy in Norway learned wood carving. He was a sailor for several years. He learned the carpenter trade and he worked for two years in the Gulness Copper Works.

He was united in marriage to Miss Turi Swanjord on March 29, 1869 and soon afterwards came to America, finally settling on a homestead in Skandia township. He was a valuable man to the settlers who came to him when they needed assistance. His first home was one of sod. He made wooden

shoes from basswood from his timber lot in Bear Lake woods. They sold for \$1 a pair for adults and 50 cents for children's sizes. There were two types of wooden shoes, Norwegian and Swedish. He stuck to the Norwegian style. He made skates and skiis. Like the other settlers the Alecksons had their scarfs, sox, mittens, etc. knitted from wool, carded, spun, cleaned and dyed at home. He built the weaving loom from oak lumber from the woods and his wife wove shawls, blankets, and carpets. He was just as handy when working in iron, making horseshoes, hinges, etc. He made the tables, chairs, beds, cupboards and the bureau for their humble home. He did much carpenter work in the county not only for the neighbors but in the nearby villages. His life was one of service to the community.

While he took no leading part in politics or social affairs, he was an important man in the eyes of the community.

The Alecksons had six children: two dying in infancy.

Aleck who was born in 1870 never married. He died in 1937.

Mary, born in 1871, was married on March 29, 1898 to B. F. Lindsey. Mr. Lindsey died in 1929. Six children were born to this union: Maria, Lillian, Mark, Ruth, Seth and Paul. Mrs. Lindsey taught school in Murray county for several years. So did Annie and Lena.

Annie, who was born in 1874, married George Mumby New Year's Day 1907. They lived on the old Aleckson homestead. The Mumbys had four children: Richard, William, Lucille and Rose. Mr. Mumby passed away January 27, 1947.

Lena, who was born in 1883, married James E. Larson on May 11, 1921. They have two sons, Harold and Floyd.

THE ANDREW AMUNDSON FAMILY

Mr. Amundson came to this country from Norway in 1865. He was born on February 15, 1843. He married Ingeborg Ruen in 1870 at Decorah, Iowa. Seven children were born to this union: Albert, January 4, 1872; Augusta, April 19, 1875; Clara, February 13, 1877; Ida, January 3, 1879; Joseph, Octo-

ber 23, 1882; Andrew, October 6, 1886—he died November 12, 1912. One child died in infancy. Mr. Amundson died November 14, 1886 and five years later the family moved on a farm in Leeds township.

Albert Amundson married Hannah Mathilda Jacobson of Upsala June 10, 1906. They live in Lake Wilson where Albert has been in the contracting business for thirty-five years. He has also been a director in the First National Bank for twenty-three years. They had a son, Laurence Arnold, who died when he was young.

Augusta married Henry Larson of Decorah, Iowa. They had two children: Bernice, who stays at home with her father in Lake Wilson, and Lyle, who married Ruth Steinmetz on December 6, 1942. Mrs. Larson died October 16, 1945.

Clara married Andrew Johnson (see Claus Johnson biography)

Ida married V. B. Smead in 1904. The family moved to Clayton, Wis. in 1910. They had four children: Irene, Frank, Edwin and Alice. Frank Alvin married Mildred Thompson August 22, 1930. They have three children: Milton Frank, born November 8, 1932; Wayne Lloyd, born December 5, 1937, and Lois Ida, born January 6, 1939. Irene Viola was married to Earl Goldsmith June 12, 1926. They have four children: Van Earl born March 26, 1932; Kenneth Layton, born December 5, 1933; Jean Alice, born October 7, 1936; and Judith Irene, born August 7, 1941. J. Edwin married Clara Plahn March 12, 1933. They have three children: Patricia Claire, born March 30, 1936; Carolyn Alice, born October 29, 1937 and died October 29, 1937; and James Edwin, born August 25, 1939, and died August 25, 1939. Alice Martha married Russell Peterson May 4, 1938. They have two children: Vincent Russell, born September 7, 1939; and Alice Jane, born February 25, 1941.

Joe married Hannah M. Blomgren in November 1911. They have a son, Laurence, who married Margaret Solem. He served in the infantry in World War II. Joe, who is a well driller, has bored more holes in Murray County than any other one man.

THE SEVERT AMUNDSON FAMILY

Severt Amundson was born in Norway November 15, 1846. He came to the United States in 1869. He lived for a time at Decorah, Iowa. While there he married Raghnild Torgeson, born February 15, 1849, also of Norway. He came to Leeds township in 1876 and built a sod house. The Amundsons had seven children: Bertha, Sophia, Albert, Tilly, Ida, Emma and Lawrence.

Albert, the oldest son, was born on the old homestead where he still lives. He was born on July 9, 1880. He married Alma Axlund of Volin, S. D. To this union five children were born: Ruth, Morris, June, Alvin, and Edith.

Ruth was born January 27, 1918. She married Harold C. Hendrickson. They have three children: Lavonne, Carol, and Larry Allen.

Morris was born July 27, 1919. He was in the Signal Air Corps in World War II. Was Tech. Sgt. in Radio Division and served with the 443rd Signal Battalion at Hickam Field, Oahu, Hawaii. He spent a year in Hawaii, landing there in December, 1942.

June, born June 26, 1921, is supervisor for the Horni Company that makes airplane coils for the government. She has been in technical work for the last four years.

Alvin, born April 25, 1923, enlisted March 10, 1943 and graduated from the Springfield college. Was Lt. in the air transport service in the 805 A.A.F. Squadron. He did transport service to South America and on the West Coast.

Edith, born August 18, 1931, is attending Slayton high school.

Part of the present Amundson house contains some lumber that was taken from the houses built by the construction crews when the railroad was built in 1879.

THE HENRY D. BOSE FAMILY

Henry D. Bose, Jr., was born in Bloomington, Illinois in 1874. He came to Murray County with his parents, Mr. and

Mrs. Henry D. Bose in 1898. He was united in marriage to Anna Elizabeth Schulen at Slayton, Minn., December 14, 1906. Mrs. Bose was born in Germany December 9, 1882. Mr. Bose bought the farm he now lives on in 1914. This farm was first owned by G. H. Smith, who drove with a team to the Missouri River in 1881 for the cottonwood trees for the grove, some of which are still standing.

Mr. and Mrs. Bose had ten children: Lauraine, Alice, Olive, Evelyn, Ralph, Henry, Elizabeth, Ruth, Kenneth, and Doris.

Lauraine married Wallace Apland in 1924. They have two children, Wallace and Donna Jean. They live at Jasper.

Alice married John R. Goertzen in 1932. They live at Newhall, Iowa. Olive married Mike Piszek in 1933. They live at Pipestone.

Evelyn married Luther G. Iverson in 1934. They have two children: David L. and Ardyth. Mrs. Iverson has been teaching in this vicinity for the last three years. They live at Lake Wilson.

Ralph married Vivian Gunderson in 1937, of Chandler. They have two children: Gary and Jeraine. They live at Lake Wilson.

Henry married Johanna Van Eck in 1938. They have four children: Marian, Carolyn, Donald and Roger. They live at Woodstock.

Elizabeth married Alfred Holmbeck in 1941. They have six children: Robert, Karen, Ronald, June, Richard, and Melvin. They live at Lake Wilson.

Ruth married John Van Eck, Jr., in 1940. They live at Lake Wilson.

Kenneth married Beryl Bjerke in 1943. They have two children: Marjorie and Rodney. They live at Lake Wilson.

Doris married Louis Platt in 1942. They have two children, Michael and William. They live at Lake Wilson. Mr. Platt was a veteran of World War II, serving in the European sector.

Mrs. Wallace Aapland passed away June 8, 1947.

THE ERNST BULDHAUPT FAMILY

Ernst Buldhaupt was born at Westwood, Ohio, April 10, 1875. He came to Lake Wilson in 1899 and purchased the farm on which he still lives.

In 1900 he was united in marriage to Miss Emma Pleggenkuler who was born at Richfield, Iowa in 1876. To this union six children were born: William, George, Louisa, Emma, Clara and Minnie.

William married Alice Aderhold in 1933. They have two children: Marion and Paul.

George took a business course at the Mankato Business college. He was married to Miss Elsie Dettmer in 1930. To this union three children were born: Ardyth who died in infancy and Donald and Robert.

Clara graduated from the Lake Wilson high school and then attended the Mankato Business college. She was married to William Miller in 1937. They have four children; Carol, Sandra Lee, Willis, and Mary Ann.

Minnie graduated from the Lake Wilson high school and then attended the Mankato Teacher's college. She is now teaching at Magnolia.

Louisa and Emma are at home.

Ernest is one of the oldest farmers in Lowville township, living on the same farm continuously.

He is steady and conservative. The kind on which depressions never make a dent. He has served as director on the Lake Wilson Co-op. Elevator and Lumber Co., the township board of Lowville and for over thirty years was clerk of the school district in which he lives.

THE FRED B. BEDFORD FAMILY

Fred B. Bedford came to Lake Wilson in Murray county in 1923. He farmed for several years in Leeds and Lowville townships. He entered the trucking business when he moved to Lake Wilson in 1932, starting out in a very modest way and now

has the largest trucking business in western Murray County. He now has five trucks and does live stock and other commercial hauling.

Mr. Bedford was born in Joliet, Illinois, February 24, 1897. He was united in marriage to Ella H. Stolk of Sherburn February 6, 1923. Mrs. Bedford was born at Belle Plaine, Iowa, October 30, 1899. To this union five children were born; Dean L., born August 2, 1924; Howard W., born October 20, 1925; Arlyss Agnes, born May 6, 1927; Doris Ann, born November 23, 1929, and Keith F., born February 18, 1934.

Dean L. entered the navy in World War II, December 20, 1943. Was attached to the submarine base at Pearl Harbor and then was attached to the U.S.S. Bullock. Was seaman 3rd class when discharged April 25, 1946.

Howard W. entered the navy January 13, 1944. Took his boot training at Farragut, Memphis, Tenn., and Fort Pierce. Was attached to the Pacific area with the landing craft division. Was in the three day battle in Manila Bay. Was killed in action in front of Corregidor. His body lies in Maraveles cemetery, on the Bataan peninsula.

Arlyss was graduated from Mankato Teachers College in 1947.

Doris Ann was a member of graduating class in Lake Wilson in 1947.

Keith is attending grade school.

The Bedfords moved to Sioux Falls, S. D. in March where Mr. Bedford died May 22, 1947.

THE ROBT. COURTNEY FAMILY

Up from the deep south came Bob Courtney to try his hand at farming in the north and is one southerner that made good in the north.

Robt. Courtney was born April 13, 1892 at Russellville, Tenn. He moved north to Onawa, Iowa where he married Clara Dallen, who was born on August 30, 1895. The Courtneys moved to Murray county in 1914. They have two children: Robt. Kenneth and Erma Lucile. They live on the farm north of Lake Wilson.

Robert Kenneth was born May 25, 1915. He married Anna Johnson, February 21, 1938. They have five children: Ralph K., Larry G., Joyce Ann, Howard R., and Russell LeRoy.

Erma Lucile, born November 16, 1916, attended the Mankato Commercial college, worked in the bank at Viborg, South Dakota and the First National Bank at Lake Wilson. She married Arie Kluis at Nashua, Iowa, April 26, 1940. They have three sons, Keith R., Glen H., and Dennis Clair. Mr. Kluis spent two years in the service during World War II. He was with the Diesel Engines Section. He was also attached to the U.S.S. Tate. He was in the Pacific area and was M.O. M.M. 2/c. They live at Slayton.

Mr. and Mrs. Courtney are enjoying life in their fine new modern home in Cameron Township.

THE HENRY CARNEY FAMILY

Henry Carney was born in Cass County, Iowa in 1883, and was united in marriage to Miss Rose Myrtle Brockman on December 31, 1903. Mrs. Carney was born in 1886.

They came to Murray County and settled on a farm in Leeds township where they still make their home. The Carneys have three children: Arthur W., Morton, and Arvid A. A son, Gordon, died at the age of three.

Arthur was born in 1910 and was married to Miss Melba Martin, January, 1935. They have three children, Vesta, Verna, and Leon Charles. They live north of Lake Wilson.

Morton married Miss Martha Alfs July 12, 1939. Morton was a graduate of the Mankato Teachers' College and has taught at Lake Benton and Granite Falls where they now live. Morton teaches industrial arts. His wife also was a graduate of Mankato Teachers' College. They have two sons, John Morton and Jerry Lee.

Arvid, the youngest, is a graduate of the Lake Wilson High School. He entered the service in 1946 and was attached to the infantry. He was united in marriage to Julie Ellen Haag, November 21, 1946, at Louisville, Kentucky. Mr. Carney received his discharge last year.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Carney have retired from farming but still live on the home place.

THE N. C. CHRISTENSEN FAMILY

N. C. Christensen was born in Denmark in 1866. He came to this country in 1886, and settled at Racine, Wisconsin. He then moved to Tyler. He was united in marriage to Miss Nina Larson at Lake Preston, S. D. The Christensens moved to Lake Wilson in 1901 and until last winter he had been continuously in business here for 45 years.

To the Christensens were born eight children: Anita, Ellen, Thyra, Anker, Gale, Dagmar, Margaret and Burdette.

Anita, after completing her education in the local schools, was graduated from Stout University, Menominie, Wis. She accepted a position in the Social Science Dept. of the U. S. Steel Corporation subsidiary in Birmingham, Alabama. On June 18, 1925 she married R. Lawrence Craig, who is General Agent for Alabama of the Fidelity Mutual Life Insurance Company of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. On April 6, 1942 Mr. Craig was ordered to active duty as a first Lt., Army Intelligence, with the Army Air Forces, and was separated from the service with the rank of Major on October 17, 1945. Anita joined her husband in June of 1942, serving in the Red Cross as a volunteer worker as Dietetics Instructor, Grey Lady. The Craigs own their own home at 3415 Windsor Boulevard, Birmingham, Alabama.

Ellen died in 1921.

Thyra, after graduating from Fairview Hospital, Minneapolis, did institutional and private duty nursing in Minneapolis. In 1927 she joined the Bureau of Child Hygiene and Public Health Nursing of the Birmingham and Jefferson County Health Department. In 1941 she received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Public Health nursing from Columbia University, New York City. In 1945 she was named Assistant Director of the Bureau, and July 1, 1946, was named Director of all Public Health nursing in the Birmingham and Jefferson County Health Department, Alabama.

Anker died in 1937.

Gale was in World War II. He saw service in the European front, and served for a while as Staff Sgt. He was attached to General Plank Division of Service and Supply, Red Ball.

Dagmar, after graduation from the Mankato Normal has been devoting her time to teaching. She is now teaching in Seattle, Wash.

Margaret, after completing her local education, became a graduate of Fairview Hospital in Minneapolis. She was united in marriage to H. L. Stream in Minneapolis in 1941. They have one son, Leonard.

Burdette, the youngest, is a veteran of Guadalcanal in World War II. He was attached to the Field Artillery. He was married to Lorraine Baack in 1940. They have two sons: Robert Eugene and Gary Burdette.

EDWARD G. CHRISTIANSON

Edward G. Christianson is the only member now living of the Christianson family which came to Murray County in 1872.

Christian Christianson and wife Caroline were born in Norway and came to the U. S. via Canada. They then moved to Minnesota settling briefly in Fillmore county and came to Murray County in 1872. There were seven children, Edward, John, Mena, Betsy, Tia, and Carrie. Edward is the only member left.

C. Christianson took an active part in the development of the township, serving with the town board for several years. When they came here they lived first in a dug out and then built a sod house. The Christiansons were the second family to arrive in the township, arriving here in October, 1872.

Edward is the last male link between now and the Indian days. Back in 1874 he played with the Indian boys in their little village which was located exactly where the Hadley Creamery stands today.

THE FRED CARLSON FAMILY

The life of Fred Carlson shows that America is the land of opportunity. He came to New York, then to Minneapolis

where he landed with 25 cents in his pocket and still owed for his ticket from Sweden. He finally came to Murray county where he worked for his board in the winter months and \$10 a month in the summer, yet he became president of the First National Bank of Lake Wilson and left many fertile acres in Cameron township. He was born in Ostergotland, Sweden. He married Miss Fanny Mathilda Sophia Johnson, March 18, 1902. Five children were born to this union: Mildred Ruth, Fred G., Martin W., Walter O., and Gilbert C.

Mildred Ruth was married to Leslie S. Oberg on December 28, 1927. They have three children: Kenneth L., Donald L., and Mildren Joan.

Fred G. married Ruby Aaker on October 16, 1929. They have three children: Ruby Elinor, Frederick, and Carol.

Martin married Gladys Thompson January 14, 1931. They have four children: Jean A., Audrey, Lyle, and Mae Shirley.

Walter married Ruth Stafne March 16, 1932. They have four children: Roger, Duane, Dale, and Donald.

Gilbert married Leona Anderson July 19, 1943. They have a daughter, Sharon. Gilbert was a first Lt. in World War II; serving in the code division of the air force. All the Fred Carlson children attended the Mankato commercial college and all live on farms north of Lake Wilson.

THE CLAUS CLAUSON FAMILY

Claus Clauson and wife Anlaug were born in Norway. When they came to this country they settled for a short time in Fillmore County and in 1872 came to Murray County. They were among the first settlers, Claus signing the petition for the formation of Leeds township.

The Clausons had ten children, Mary, Martin, Lena, Ole, Carl, William, Bernard, Clara, Louise, and Henry. (Lena, Ole and Clara have passed away.)

Mary was united in marriage to Bert Jacobson.

Martin married Anna Skabitski of Fargo, N. D. They have two children, Arden and Dolores.

Lena married John Remstad (she died in 1896). They had one daughter, Amanda, who married Leslie Wagley, May 8,

1917. They have four children, namely, Gordon, Lowell, Robert and Roger. Gordon married Adrianna Moret of Chandler. They live at Rushmore, and have two children, Peter and Gary. Lowell works at Sioux Falls, S. D. Robert is in the army and Roger at home.

Ole married Jennie Drake. Both have passed away. They had three children, Eddie, Walter and Lillian.

Carl married Mary Johnson. To this union were born: Mahlen, Earl, Russell, and Mildred. Mahlen married Helen Osborne of Lake Wilson September 14, 1927. They have three children: Patsy, born October 21, 1930; Marwood, born August 30, 1935, and Durwood, born November 29, 1940. Patsy is attending Kemper Hall at Kenosha, Wisconsin. Mr. Clauson is jobber for the Phillips Petroleum Co. in Murray County. They live in Slayton. Earl married Cecelia Paal of Currie. They live in St. Paul. Russell married Elizabeth Caron of Currie. They have six children: Gerald, Jerome, David, Douglas, Richard and Mary Lou. Mildred married Harold Mack. They have a daughter, Marcia, born December 22, 1945. Mr. Mack is serving in the U. S. Navy.

William married Mabel Solberg. They have ten children, Arnold, Luella, Everett, Howard, Willard, Allen, Lucille, Robert, Luzerne, and LuJean. Arnold married Florence Whipple: they live in Sioux Falls, and have two children, Donna and Robert. Luella married Rev. Merlin Berg who is pastor of the Lutheran church at Benson. They have three children. David. Miriam, and Meredith. Everett married Helen Poole. They have two children, Jon and Susan, and live at Excelsior. Howard married Doris Lilljenberg. They live in Hadley and have two children, William and Karen. Willard saw four years service in World War II in the 810th Signal Service Battalion, mostly in the European sector. He married Margaret Cummings of London, England. They live on the home farm. Allen married Annie Nett of Lake Wilson; they live at Sioux Falls, S. D. and have three children, Thomas, Nancy and Judith. Lucille married Joel Lee of Benson. They have one child, Janice. Robert, who is attending Augustana College, spent a year and a half in the 288th Eng. (C) Bn. in the European sector. Luzerne is employed in a doctor's office at Slavton; Lu Jean is attending high school in Slayton.

Bernard married Lena Halbostad, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ole Halbostad, early settlers. They have two sons, Donald, who saw service in World War II. Donald is a graduate of St. Olaf and received his master's degree at U. of M. He is now Supt. of schools at Hinkley. He married Ruth D. Wooley of St. Paul. They have two children, Donald Larry and Pamela Jean. Richard was a captain in the 349th Air Troop Carrier. He was the first pilot to enter Stavanger, Norway. He is attending the U. of Indiana. Mrs. Bernard Clauson is a director of the First National Bank of Lake Wilson.

Clara married Joe Hoye in 1914; she died in 1917.

Louise married Chas. A. Erickson. He died in 1945. They have five children: Irene, Hazel, Kenneth, Wesley and Ervin. Irene married Victor Oberg; they have one child, Lois Ann. Hazel married Arthur Berg of Slayton. Kenneth married Pearl Peterson; they live at Pipestone and have four children: Ronald, Sharon, Carol and Michael. Wesley married Rolandis Van Sloun of St. Paul. They have a son, Thomas. Wesley saw service in France with the 103rd division under General Patch. Ervin married Sylvia Lovell; they have two sons, Gerald and James.

Henry married Lola Thompson.

THE B. H. CRISSINGER FAMILY

Entrusted with the management of the Hadley Co-operative Creamery is B. H. Crissinger who came to the creamery in 1941. A practical creamery man, familiar with all the various branches of the business he has done his part to keep the creamery at a high standard. He was born at Fairmont, Minnesota, August 21, 1909. He started his creamery experience at the Farmers co-operative creamery at Jackson. Had charge of the milk, eggs, poultry and feed departments. Drove cream truck and knows the business from a practical end. He attended the Dairy course at the University of Minnesota in 1939.

He married Eloise E. Klien, October 9, 1936. They have two children: Onalee, born May 12, 1941, and Dean Richard, born May 31, 1945. Mr. Crissinger was a member of the Minnesota national guard for ten years.

THE PETER A. DAHLQUIST FAMILY

P. A. Dahlquist and Betsy Anderson were married in Eastad, Sweden in 1876. They came to America in 1882 and moved to Chanarambie Township in 1889. They had six children: Anna, Cecelia, John, Oscar, Ida and Edward.

Anna married Hans Matheson in 1900. Both are dead, Hans in 1919 and Anna in 1931. They had seven children: Emma, Mary, Alice, Andrew, and Cecelia live in Colorado; Harold in New Mexico and Myrtle in Sioux Falls, S. D.

Cecelia married Albert Synnerholm, March 12, 1912. They live in Slayton. They had two sons; one died at the age of 13 and the other at the age of 20.

John married Amanda Hemming in 1937. They have five children: Allen, Ruth, Bertha, Eugene and Carolyn. They live at Lake Wilson.

Oscar W. married Edith Heig, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Heig, early settlers of Fenton. Oscar has always been active in farm bureau, 4-H, in fact everything pertaining to agriculture. They have seven children: Donald D., Douglas O., Duane Alfred, Betty Marie, Joan Edith, M. Esther, and Marjorie Alice.

Donald D. attended the U. of M., entered the U. S. Signal Corps in April 1941. Was in Ireland, returned for further training. He was on the S. S. Wakefield which was destroyed by fire. He was instructor at Ft. Monmouth, took secret communication training. Was sent to Philippines. Discharged February 1946, Rank 1st Lieut. Married Arlene Bostic December 22, 1942. They live at Alexandria, Va. and have a son, Dennis Dwight.

Douglas O. attended U. of M., entered 3rd Arm. Div. November 1941. Became instructor 742 Amphib. Bn., discharged February 1946. Rank, Capt. Married Lorraine Barnard January 10, 1943. They have a daughter, Kathleen.

Duane Alfred, attended Macalester 3 years. Enlisted in North Air Corps, July 1942. Trained at Wold Chamberlain and Corpus Christi. Transferred to Marine Corps. With 4th Air Wing, 22nd Squad, went overseas with Major Foss fighter squadron, September 1943. He was killed in the line of duty August 19, 1944 in the Pacific Area. Rank 1st Lieut.

Betty Marie trained at Northwestern Hospital, Minneapolis. Graduated September 1944, enlisted in the U. S. Army Nurse Corps. She is now stationed at General Hospital, Tokyo, Rank Lt.

Joan Edith attended Mankato Teachers College, married to Mo. M. M., L. J. Hourscht in 1946. They live in Philadelphia.

M. Esther is attending Lake Wilson High School, Marjorie Alice is in grade school.

Ida married Edwin Heig March 12, 1919. They have three sons: Harris E., Edwin James, and Vincent Allen.

Harris enlisted in Navy Air Corps, was overseas, E. T. O. Returned in 1945, discharged November 1945. He re-enlisted March 1946. He married Vivian Anderson, June 3, 1944. They have one son, Richard Lawrence. They live at Pensacola, Florida.

Edwin is attending the Slayton High School, and Vincent Allen is in grade school.

Edward, the youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. P. A. Dahlquist, married Roberta Fraser March 20, 1929. They have one daughter, Agnes, attending the Chandler school.

THE CARL EISFELT FAMILY

Carl Eisfelt was born in Germany October 7, 1871. He married Ida Gernentz, who was born September 3, 1875. They came to Murray County in 1903. They had twelve children: Lydia Margaret, Elizabeth Sophia, Laura Isabelle, Mary, Dora Maybelle, Walter, Clarence, Ruby, Herman, Albert, Raymond, Elwin and Clifford who died October 1941.

Lydia Margaret married Henry Belling of Chandler, October 20, 1941.

Elizabeth and Laura live in Minneapolis.

Dora and Ruby are at home with their mother at Chandler.

Walter married Ethel Hazel Erdahl, June 17, 1935. They have a son, Larry Walter. They live on the old home farm.

Clarence married Mardelle Gnadt, a graduate of Worthington Teachers College and a teacher in the Murray county schools. They have a daughter, Barbara Yvonne. The Eisfelts were married December 21, 1936. They live at Lake Wilson.

Herman married Anetta Van Eck, May 30, 1944. They have one child, Dwayne. They are engaged in farming.

Albert was united in marriage to Margaret Van Eck January 20, 1943. They have one son, David. They live in Ellsborough. Albert saw service in World War II, was stationed at Camp Rucker, Ala., and Camp Horn, Arizona.

Raymond saw four years of service in World War II, was a Sgt. Company B. 53rd Inf. Was attached to 159th Inf. Took part in Aleutian and European campaigns, he had $5\frac{1}{2}$ years service.

Elwin entered service in 1942, was in 354th Inf. Patton's 3rd army; he had four years service, European campaign.

THE DAVID M. ENGEL FAMILY

David Milton Engel was born in Sterling, Ill., July 10, 1871. He moved to Iowa in 1891. He was married at Sibley, Iowa, to Celia Alma Brand on June 22, 1893. They moved to Chanarambie Township in Murray County in 1899 and farmed there for 47 years. Mr. Engel died April 18, 1941. Mrs. Engel and daughter, Velma, moved to Chandler in June 1944 where they now make their home. To Mr. and Mrs. Engel were born five children: John Franklin, born July 7, 1894; Velma La-Vonne, February 9, 1896; Maynard Brand, September 9, 1897; Beryl Elmira, April 8, 1900; Raymond Milton, August 8, 1902.

John, who is now in the automotive and stock feeding business at Cherokee, Iowa, married Mary (Molly) Louise Hogan, October 10, 1916. They have three children: Eileen Louise, September 17, 1917, now teaching at Iowa City, Iowa; Robert Miles, September 30, 1924, is assisting his father. He was married to Miss Marion Wissink of Rock Valley, Iowa. Mary Dell was born on April 9, 1933.

Velma attended Teachers' College at Austin and Business College at Mankato. She has taught in Murray County schools for several years. She was married to Bert W. Smith, October 1, 1924.

Maynard Brand married Clara K. Yager, May 10, 1930. They have two children: Lois Jayne, May 13, 1938; David Lowell, July 5, 1943. They live on a farm in Lowville township that Maynard bought in 1940.

Beryl Elmira married Floyd Leon Watters of Ocheyedan, Iowa, September 22, 1920. They have two children: Martin Floyd, born September 29, 1921, who is in the U. S. Army, and Alice Beryl, February 12, 1925 in California.

Raymond Milton married Myrtle Maricle of Wells, Minn. October 9, 1924. They have one child, Mildred Harriet, born September 22, 1929. Raymond started in banking business with the First National Bank at Rock Rapids. He was with the National Banking Department for four years, then spent several years with the South Dakota Bank examiner's staff. He is now cashier of the Minnehaha County bank at Valley Springs, South Dakota.

THE ANDREW EDMUNDSON FAMILY

Few men accomplished so much in their farming operations as Andrew Edmundson. He came here handicapped physically and with a small amount of equipment. Although he never knew a painless day, he worked hard and saved. When he passed away he owned more land than any other man in western Murray County. No man gave more liberally to his church than he did.

Andrew Edmundson was born in Norway in 1863, and came to this country in 1885, living for a while at Clear Lake, Iowa. He was married in 1900 to Miss Hermina Beyer. Mr. Edmundson passed away in 1944. Six children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Edmundson: Carl Gilbert, Lawrence Alfred, Henry Edward, Herman Paul, Agnes Vieda, Clara Elsie.

Carl was born November 7, 1901.

Lawrence married Dorothy Radi, February 26, 1938. They have two children: Earl Lawrence and Dean Paul.

Henry married Edna Kuhlman in 1936. Seven children were born to this union: Edward Henry, Herman Andrew, Evelyn Edna, Larry Elmer, Dale Donald, Harold Marvin, and Pearl May.

Herman married Evelyn Buseman, September 6, 1940. They have one child, Beverly Jean. Mrs. Edmundson died January 8, 1947. She was born Sept. 16, 1918. Beverly Jean was born April 21, 1942.

Agnes married Lyle Riemer, September 27, 1941. They have two children: Marilyn Faye and Harvey Duane. They live at Ruthton.

Clara, the youngest, married Vernon Gilbertson August 10, 1945. They live on the old farm in Cameron Township.

Mrs. Edmundson makes her home in Lake Wilson.

THE EMBRIC A. ENGEBRETSON FAMILY

Embric A. Engebretson was one of the early pioneers in western Murray county coming here in 1869. He was a member of the Seventh Minnesota volunteers in the Civil War. At the close of the war he came west searching for a home and finally settled on a claim in Mason township. After filing he returned to Jackson, Minn. and spent the winter. He stayed away too long and when he got back to Murray county found another settler on his claim so he took up another claim a mile north. Mr. and Mrs. Engebretson had four children: Adolph, Tilda, Edward L. and Alvin Henry.

Edward L. was united in marriage to Miss Agnes Johnson of Skandia township. They have four children: Merle (Mrs. E. A. Lindblad), Nona (Mrs. J. D. Murphy), Eunice (Mrs. Albin Fredricks), and E. A. (Allen). The Lindblads and the Murphys live in Detroit, Michigan. Mr. and Mrs. Allen Engebretson have two children: Marilyn, born July 7, 1931, and Charles, born March 31, 1936. Allen is in partnership with his father. Mr. and Mrs. Fredricks have three children: Merlaine, born August 18, 1935; Jon, born August 22, 1940; and Carlyle, born August 16, 1944.

No man in the county has been more interested in co-operative and community development than Ed. L. Engebretson. Be-

sides being president of the Hadley Creamery for 17 years, he is also president of the Murray County Agricultural society. He is a director in the Slayton Co-op Lumber Co., was a director in the Murray County Co-op. Oil company. He was also a member of the group of farmers who organized the Murray county farm bureau. A really wonderful record.

Adolph married Celia Holmes. Three children were born to this union.: Lyle, Glen and Dorothy. Lyle and Glen were in the heavy artillery in World War II. Adolph's first wife was Miss Schellgren and they had one son in World War I. The Engebretsons live in Slayton.

Tilda died several years ago.

Alvin H. was united in marriage on September 15, 1920 to Miss Lillian Nelson of Albert Lea. They have three children: Richard M., born August 21, 1922; John R., born July 13, 1927; Constance L., born May 5, 1929.

Richard took part in World War II. He was a member of the 134th Inf. 35 Div., part of General Patton's Third Army. He is now attending the University of Minnesota. He married Stella Stevens, March 20, 1945. They have a daughter: Roxeanne Sue, born January 22, 1947.

John R. served in the navy for over a year. He is now attending Junior College at Worthington.

Constance is a senior in Slayton high school.

Mr. Engebretson, who attended Minnesota university, has held the position as county engineer in Murray county for the last twenty-two years. He is a veteran of World War I. There are three generations of soldiers in the Embric Engebretson family.

THE JOHN W. ERICKSON FAMILY

John W. Erickson and his twin brother, Louis, were born in Romsdalen, Norway, October 16, 1877. They came to the U. S. in 1892, settling at Odebolt, Iowa. John worked on a farm, then went to the mercantile business and from there to Sioux City, Iowa, where he was employed in a wholesale hardware store. He came to Lake Wilson in 1917 and for many

years was active in village affairs. He was the first president of the First National bank, was in the automobile business for seven years and for seventeen years was manager of the Lake Wilson Co-op. lumber yard.

He was united in marriage to Miss Effie Marie Nelson, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Nelson on November 6, 1918. Mrs. Erickson was a former teacher in Sac county, lowa.

They have one son, John Robert, who was born October 3, 1919. He attended St. Olaf and the Minnesota U., then took employment at Mankato. He was united in marriage to Miss Gladys Joy Tillisch of Mankato, March 23, 1940. They have two sons: Stephen John, born March 1, 1942, and Gregory Robert, October 24, 1946. Mrs. Erickson attended St. Olaf and the Miss Wood's school. John Robert entered the navy June 15, 1943. Took up radar and was attached to the U. S. S. Burias and U. S. S. Wyoming in the Pacific, Squad. No. 10. He is now a department manager in Montgomery Ward's store at Mankato.

THE AUGUST ERICKSON FAMILY

August Erickson was born in Sweden and came to Princeton, Ill. in 1880. He was united in marriage to Elizabeth Swanson of Princeton. They moved to Lake Wilson, Minn. in 1887 settling on a farm in section 17 in Lowville township, which they farmed for 32 years. In 1919 they retired from farming and moved back to Princeton. Mr. Erickson was a member of Lowville township board for many years. He passed away in 1946. To Mr. and Mrs. Erickson were born seven children: Gilbert, Ellen, Mamie, Reuben, Edith, Mabel and Arthur.

Gilbert, the oldest son, has been active in township and civic affairs for the last thirty years, and for the last ten years has been president of the Lake Wilson Co-op. Elevator and Lumber Co., the largest organization of its kind in Murrray County. Mr. Erickson was married to Miss Esther Hedin in 1917. To this union two children were born: Earl and Louise. Earl who graduated from the Lake Wilson high school is associated with his father on the farm. He was married to Miss Loretta Ginn in September 1946. Louise also graduated from the Lake Wilson high school and after a business course in Minneapolis entered the employ of a wholesale house.

Mrs. Gilbert Erickson died in 1927. Mr. Erickson married Miss Clara Hedin in 1930.

Ellen was married to Charles Johnson in 1913. They have been farming in this community for over thirty years. They have two children: Helen, a graduate of the Lake Wilson high school who took a course in comptometry and worked for several years. She was married to Roger Ogren; they have two sons: Robert and Richard.

Robert was a graduate from the Lake Wilson high school and is staying on the farm with his folks.

Mamie taught school in Murray County for several years and is now living in Princeton, Ill. where she is employed in a department store.

Reuben passed away in 1918.

Edith graduated from the Slayton high school. After teaching in the county for several years she was united in marriage to George Miller. They live on the old Erickson homestead; they have four children: Donald, Murlaine, Marlys and Louise.

Mabel took a business course in Rockford, Ill., and for several years did work in an official capacity in that city. She was married to Raymond Bangson, a grandson of the former C. L. Bangson, a former well-known resident of Leeds; they have one daughter, Marilyn.

Arthur, the youngest, is a graduate of Northwestern University at Evanston, Ill., and lives in Milwaukee, Wis., where he heads a large business concern. He married Miss Ingeborg Samuelson. They have three children: Christene, Jean and Thomas Arthur.

Mr. Chas. Johnson passed away, June 22, 1947.

THE LLOYD F. FOWSER FAMILY

Lloyd F. Fowser came to Murray County with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Daniel F. Fowser in 1887. The Fowsers lived at Will County, Ill. Lloyd, second oldest son, was united in marriage to Miss Selma P. Peterson of Avoca, September 4, 1907. To this union five children were born: Vernon L., June 15, 1908; Marshall, January 27, 1912; Burton, December 29, 1913; Mark, Jan. 11, 1917; Gwendoline, March 28, 1921.

Vernon married Florene Brandt April 9, 1936. They had one son, Robert V. Vernon passed away June 25, 1940.

Marshall married Gayle Pugh, October 3, 1936. They have three sons, Donald L., September 30, 1937; Dan LeRoy, October 9, 1941; Dale Allen, June 26, 1944. Marshall has been in the insurance business in Lake Wilson for years.

Burton married Leola Mae Gass, August 9, 1939. Burton served in the Inf. Medical Corps in World War II. Mrs. Fowser attended the Mankato Teachers' College and for the past year has been teaching in the rural schools. They live at Lake Wilson.

Mark attended Minneapolis Business College, saw service in World War II and was in the Pacific sector. He was liaison officer in the sixth division. He married Claire Campbell; they have two girls: Marlaire and Daggett. Mark has reenlisted in the army and will see service either in Germany or Japan.

Gwendoline attended Minneapolis Business School and was a member of the Waves, was married to D. J. Lovell of Madison, Wis. Mr. Lovell and his wife are both attending the University. He saw service in World War II and was in the Navy.

Lloyd Fowser was in business at Slayton and Avoca before coming to Lake Wilson in May 1919. At present he is engaged in the real estate business. Mr. Fowser is the dean among western Murray County sportsmen. Hunting and fishing are his hobbies and no one has as keen a sportsman's instinct as he. He has taken an active part in civic affairs since coming to Lake Wilson.

THE PHILLIP FLANNERY FAMILY

Phillip J. Flannery came to Murray County with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Michael Flannery from Ackley, Iowa. They bought the old Wm. Luce place two miles west of town. At one time there was a post office and store on the place. The post office was called Summitt but it passed out in 1883 when Lake Wilson was started. Both Mr. and Mrs. Flannery have long since passed away.

Phillip, who was the first secretary of the Lake Wilson Farmers Elevator Company, started in farming in 1905. He farmed until 1907 when he entered the rural mail service and he has been a carrier on Route No. 2 since 1907 with the exception of two years. Phil was born at Ackley, September 15, 1879. He married Mary Ryan of Millville June 24, 1908. To this union five children were born: James P., Elizabeth M., Eleanor F., Loretta Arliss, and Eileene.

James P. spent three years in World War II. He took part in African and Sicilian campaigns. He was Sgt. in the ground air force, and is now manager of Real Silk, Inc. of Jamestown, N. Y.

Elizabeth worked as instructor of the N. W. air plant in World War II. She married Melvin Carlson, August 18, 1944. They have two children: Michael and Phillip Allen. They live in St. Paul. Mr. Carlson is an orderly at the Veteran's Hospital. He is a veteran of World War II.

Eleanor married Edward Jensen, March 8, 1942. They live on a farm near Slayton.

Loretta Arliss attended civil service school at Rochester. She went to Washington in 1943 and has charge of the Travel unit office of vocational rehabilitation division of Washington, D. C.

Eileene died in infancy.

THE AXEL FRESK FAMILY

Axel Fresk is a son of the late Mr. and Mrs. A. P. Fresk who came to Lowville township from Michigan in 1887.

Axel was united in marriage to Miss Margaret Webster in 1905. To this union three children were born: Evelyn, Gordon, and Goodwin.

Evelyn was united in marriage to Dewey Thatcher in 1941. They live in Chattanooga, Tenn.

Gordon saw three years and 8 months' service in World War II in the air corps with rank of Staff Sgt. He was united in marriage to Miss Edith Krog of Lake Benton in Tallahassee,

Fla. in 1943. They have one daughter, Dianne, October 8, 1944. Goodwin was united in marriage to Miss Marjorie Thompson of Slayton in 1944. They have two daughters, Judith, April 26, 1945 and JoAnne, May 1, 1946.

The Axel Fresk family moved from Lowville township to Leeds township in 1918. The record of his life has been one of public service especially that of co-operation. Taking a part in the organization of the Farm Bureau. Among the offices he has held are: President of the Hadley Farmer's Elevator Company, president of the Murray County Insurance Company, director of the Murray County Oil Company, county commissioner, helped organize the Hadley Creamery, director of the Fair board, vice president of the Murray County public health board, and for years was active in the Murray County shipping association. He was also the first "voting delegate" to the state Farm Bureau from the county.

In fact there have been few organizations in Murray County that have benefited agriculture that he did not play a part in.

THE DR. JAMES FORREST FAMILY

Dr. James Forrest and family came to Murray County and settled in Cameron Township in 1883. The Forrests came from Stirling, Scotland. Dr. Forrest was a graduate of Edinburgh University.

There were five children in the Forrest family: Martin, born September 5, 1869; William, born January 3, 1871; Robert, born July 21, 1872; Jane and Margaret were twins, born January 1, 1882.

Martin was united in marriage on October 10, 1923 to Miss Kittie Hart of Pipestone. He died in 1936 from injuries received in an auto accident.

Wm. Forrest, who has made his home in California for the past 40 years, was united in marriage to Miss Elaine Elworthy in 1911. Mr. Forrest was an official of the Pacific Gas and Electric Company for over 30 years.

Robert B. Forrest, postmaster, editor, and assistant game and fish commissioner, was married September 4, 1899 to Miss

Catherine Peterson. Three children were born to this union: Nola G., born June 19, 1900; Robert J., born February 6, 1902, and Marjorie K., born February 11, 1913.

Nola attended Macalester College in St. Paul, Minn. after which she was graduated from Eitel Hospital, Minneapolis, Minn. She then became a 2nd Lt. in the U. S. Army Nurse Corps and during World War II became a Lt. Colonel. She was Chief Nurse in several hospitals and in 1944 was Chief of Nursing Personnel in the Office of Surgeon General, Washington, D. C. In June 1944 she became Director of Nurses in the S. W. Pacific Area and participated in the Invasion of Leyte and the Liberation of Manila, being the first woman to set foot on Philippine soil in 1944. She has 4 battle stars and was awarded the Bronze Star medal for heroic action. In 1945 she was returned to the States as a patient and was retired for physical disability, with the rank of Lt. Col. She resides at present at Los Angeles, California.

Robert J. died at Pocahontas, Iowa in 1935 where he was publishing the Pocahontas Democrat. He was married in 1926 to Grace Meyer. To this union two children were born: James B., March 5, 1928; and Robert B. III, March 28, 1934. James B. was in the Maritime service and now a Pfc. in the transportation corps of the army as a telegrapher, in Germany. Mrs. Forrest and Robert live in St. Paul.

Marjorie was united in marriage to Ray D. Elias, a representative of the Sherwin-Williams Paint Co., on July 4, 1937. Two children were born to this union: Katherine Ann, born May 4, 1938, and Margaret Jane, born May 7, 1942.

Jane Forrest was united in marriage to Lee Hosmer of Parkman, Ohio, in 1903. They live in Pipestone. He lived in Lake Wilson in 1901. He is a jeweler by trade. Mr. Hosmer was mayor of Lake Wilson in 1902.

Margaret Forrest was married to Chas. F. Lentz of Minnesota Lake in 1916. The Lentzes live in Lake Wilson. Mr. Lentz was in the contracting business but is now retired. He has been director of the First National Bank for the last twenty years.

THE ROBERT FRASER SR. FAMILY

Robert Fraser Sr. of Aberdeen, Scotland, was married to Miss Barbara Muir at London, England, May 9, 1871. To this union four children were born: Margaret, February 22, 1872; Mary, January 25, 1874; Robert, March 30, 1876, and James, March 23, 1878.

They immigrated to America in 1882 and settled in Slayton where there were only six houses in the village. Margaret still makes her home in Slayton.

Mary married Rev. John Christensen. Both passed away several years ago. They left one son, William, who is married and lives at Pierz, Minn. They have a daughter, Willa Gene.

Robert Jr. came to Chanarambie township in 1892 and worked on a farm until he saved enough money to buy a fine farm for himself in 1912. He married Miss Emma Kench, September 27, 1905. Two children were born to this union: Roberta, November 24, and Roland, August 23, 1916. Roberta married Ed Dahlquist (See Peter Dahlquist biography). Roland married Eunice Endersbee June 10, 1940; they have a daughter, Donna Jean, born October 31, 1942. Eunice was born May 20, 1917. Mrs. Robert Fraser, Jr. died November 23, 1929. On December 26, 1933 Mr. Fraser, Jr. was united in marriage to Mable Olson Endersbee. They now make their home in the village of Lake Wilson. Mr. Fraser served the township of Chanarambie as supervisor for 17 years and treasurer for three years. Since coming to Lake Wilson Mr. Fraser has served as village trustee for three years.

James Fraser is married and lives near New Port, Washington. They have one son, Clarence.

THE WILLIAM GINN FAMILY

Wm. Ginn was born in St. Leonard, New Brunswick, Canada, December 26, 1870. He came to America in 1892, landing in Minneapolis and from there he reached Murray County. He was married to Adeline Gnadt in 1896. To this union two children were born: Amanda and Harold. Amanda

was born May 2, 1896 and after attending the Nichols Business College in St. Paul, managed stores in northern Iowa for L. J. Kaplan. She married Adrian K. Blok, April 14, 1936. They live at Primghar, Iowa.

Harold married Miss Linda Gudmonson in 1926. They have four children: Loretta, Chester, Phyllis and LeRoy. Loretta married Earl Erickson in October 1946. The other children are at home north of Lake Wilson.

Mrs. Ginn passed away on November 4, 1902 and on February 5, 1904, Mr. Ginn was united in marriage to Hermina Gnadt. To this union: Charlotte, May 9, 1906; Ernest, March 12, 1909; Edwin, March 21, 1913 were born.

Charlotte Emma took Domestic Science at Stout Institute in Menomomonie, Wisconsin and attended Layton Art School at Milwaukee, Wis. She married Jacob Bluemenschein, November 11, 1929. They have three children: Durwood E., December 2, 1930; Ernes Marie, April 2, 1933; and Amanda Charlotte, April 6, 1943. The Bluemenscheins, who were married in Hamm, Germany, lived in Germany from 1929 to 1934. During this time except during his military service, Mr. Bluemenschein has been in charge of a Woolworth store. Mr. Bluemenschein had an interesting military experience. He was with the Germans during the winter siege of Moscow and was finally transferred to the interpreters corps. He was taken prisoner and brought to this country—then returned to Germany where he is now in charge of the Woolworth store at Oberhausen. Mrs. Bluemenschein who was completely obscured during the late years of the war, finally reached the U. S. with the two daughters; they are now at the Ginn home. Her husband plans on returning to the U.S. Durwood is in Germany with his father.

Ernest is at home and is in partnership with his father on the farm.

Edwin married Lola Anderson in March 1934. They have four children: Edwin, Jr., born 1935; Janet, born in 1938; Gordon, born in 1940; and Constance, born in 1942.

THE JAMES A. GILFILLAN FAMILY

James Almond Gilfillan was married to Martha Whitmore in 1862 in Canada. He came to Chanarambie Township in 1876. They had four children: Nelson, 1864; James Almond, 1866; Louie, 1868; a girl died in infancy.

Nelson lives in Flin Flon, Canada.

James Almond came here with his parents. He was married to Miss Alma Mae Adams in 1899. They spent three years in Washington, returning to Minnesota in 1910. They have eight children: Alberta, Lee, Clover, Arlo, Durwood, Dorothy, James Almond and Rosebud.

Alberta was married to Von Price at Chicago, Ill. in 1945. She was a nurse at the Municipal Hospital at Chicago.

Lee was married to Margaret Krock 1923. They have two children: Marion and Marjorie.

Clover married Frank Swanson in 1925. They have three children: Joy, Alma, and Barbara. Joy married Lester Rupp in 1945 and has a daughter, Joyce.

Arlo married Frieda Grunewald in 1935. They have two children: Janice and Arlo Vee.

Durwood married Genevieve Berreau in 1940. They live at Racine, Wis.

Dorothy was married to Niemar Harstad in 1930. They have two children: Niemar Roy and Bertie Vee.

James Almond was married to Helen Vitrock in 1938. They have two children: Billie Lee and James Almond.

Rosebud married Nerl Ballweg in 1937. They have four children: Keith, Patricia, Darlo Dee and Zoneene. They live at Lennox, S. Dak.

James Almond Gilfillan took an active part in the development of this section. He worked and worked hard. In the spring and summer digging wells, in the fall he threshed and baled hay during the winter months: No man worked more steadily than "Ally" Gilfillan. There wasn't a still bone in his body.

THE FRED G. GASS FAMILY

Fred G. Gass was born June 18, 1883 at Alta, Iowa, and came to Murray County with his parents in 1902. They settled on December 18 in Lowville township. Mr. Gass started farming for himself in 1905 and made a success not only in farming but in his activities in governmental affairs. He has served as town clerk of Leeds township for 20 years, is a director of the Murray County Mutual Fire Ins. Co., was a member of the Murray County Selective Service board for six years, and was a director of PCA of SW Minnesota eight years. He was married to Elvira A. Burke, November 25, 1909. Mrs. Gass was born July 24, 1886, in Slayton, Minn. To this union were born Kenneth, August 29, 1910; Chloris, July 24, 1912; Clinton B., January 9, 1920. Kenneth died in infancy.

Chloris, a graduate of Mankato Normal, taught school eight years, married Lucas Harmsen, June 22, 1939; to this union two girls were born: Gretchen L., August 9, 1940; and Kathryn, January 5, 1945. Mrs. Harmsen is teaching in Detroit, Michigan.

Clinton married Myrtle E. Brewer, October 18, 1941. They have two children: Frederick S., April 21, 1943; Kenneth B., June 13, 1946.

Clinton was graduated Magna Cum Laude from Gustavus Adolphus College in 1941. He was a member of the faculty at the University of Nebraska for two years, then to the Nebraska Wesleyan College where he is now professor of Mathematics. He entered the army September 15, 1944. Finally landed at Los Almos, N. M. where he was attached to the Manhattan Engineering project (the Atomic Bomb). He was with the static bomb project for over a year, working in Mathematics and Theoretical physics. He also has a master degree from the University of Nebraska.

THE OTTO K. HEIMNESS FAMILY

Otto K. Heimness was born in Norway and came to this country in 1883, settling first in Fillmore county. He moved to Murray county in 1884 settling on a farm in Leeds township. He was one of the most successful farmers in that township. He was married to Miss Jetta Jonette Mickelson, November 18,

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THE L. J. HEIMNESS FAMILY

I. I He made was born to Norway and came to this nountry in 269 landing at Decorati Iowa. He was married to Johanna is Rogeorerson in 1870. They maked to Hitmore country where they liked until 1872 when they maked to Murrial country setting on section 3 in Leeds.

Mr. He mades was a substant at on zer, and served as assected and supervisor for Leeds toward plwn in he helped organize in 203. Mr. and Mrs. He mades had toned daughters: Anna Hiller and Isabe. Anna was up ted in marriage to liver Erdah, of Lake Wilson in 1910. They have one daughter Ivey who attended Mackath Commercial behoof and now has a fine position with Griggs Cooper Co. of 5t. Paul. Isabel married Knut Mostrom in 1896. The Mostroms had toree children: Amolo Julia and Gladys.

Julia married Ole Strand of Molffenry, North Dakota. They had four collored, Bluen married Henry Bruck, She died in 1943. Mr. Brunk died in 1941.

THE WILLIAM HELMKE FAMILY

Wm. Helmke was born in German; January 5, 1871. He name to America in 1894, settling near Avida, Nebraska. He name to Minnesota in 1891, settling on a farm in Cameron township. He was united in marriage to Lena Detimer in 1895.

They had eleven children: Sophia who died in 1923; Margaret March 25, 1897; Minnie August 35, 1898; Henry. July 23, 1900; Fred: Lena, July 24, 1910; Elizabeth October 18, 1904; Emma, March 16, 1907; Anna, July 30, 1908; William, November 28, 1909; and Alice, October 13, 1916.

Margaret married Gustave Kruse, born June 16, 1894, on June 25, 1919. They have five children: Kenneth, May 25, 1920; Gordon, April 5, 1926; Darlene, November 25, 1928; Naomi, February 26, 1937; and Mavis, October 24, 1942. Kenneth married Johanna Van Ruler and has two children, Barbara and Alvin. Gordon married Marge Kline and has one son, Michael Gustaf. They live in Sioux Falls. Darlene is at home.

Minnie married Emil Boese, born June 19, 1900, on February 22, 1922. They have three children: Anton, born February 3, 1925; Berle, born August 22, 1927; and Clifford, born November 17, 1935. Berle served in the Navy in World War II. Anton was in the Medical Division in the Army of World War II. The boys are staying at home.

Henry married Elsie Haveman, born November 2, 1900, of Avoca, Nebraska, September 28, 1921. They have three children: Eileen, born Nov. 24, 1922; Roy, born March 28, 1926; and Iris, born Aug. 24, 1929. Eileen married H. Isebrands. They have a girl, Marcia. Eileen is a graduate of the Minneapolis Business College, and is with the Occidental Loan Assn. of Omaha, Nebraska. Roy saw some service in the U. S. Navy. Iris is in school.

Fred died at the age of two years.

Lena married Carl Boese, born April 29, 1904, on January 7, 1925. They have three children: Virgil, October 31, 1928; Wayne, December 1, 1930; and Myrna, April 4, 1937.

Elizabeth married Ernest Grieme, born September 8, 1900, on Dec. 29, 1926. They have two children: Orville, November 21, 1927; and Beverly, February 6, 1939. Orville was in the U. S. Navy several months and Beverly is attending school. They live on the old homestead.

Emma married Adolph Loftus, born January 14, 1901, on June 30, 1928. They have two children: ImoJean, born July 28, 1929; and Stanley, June 17, 1932. They live in Ellsborough township.

Anna married Henning Laffrenzen, born June 17, 1904, on February 12, 1926. They have five children: Dale, born January 31, 1928; Donna, September 19, 1929; Wilbur, April 1, 1941; Darl, May 27, 1935; and David, May 21, 1940. They live in Pipestone. Dale is still in the Navy.

William married Margaret Thuringer, born March 3, 1917, on February 15, 1935. They have two children: Maris, December 23, 1936; and Garry, July 24, 1943. They live in St. Paul.

Alice married Henry Martensen, born October 23, 1910, on June 26, 1935. They have two children: Mona, April 15, 1937; and Marvin, August 19, 1944. They are living in Cameron Township.

William Helmke, Sr., died January 30, 1934. His wife, who was born in 1875, died October 20, 1936. None of the old settlers were more universally esteemed than Mr. and Mrs. William Helmke.

THE FRED HELMKE FAMILY

Fred Helmke was the youngest son of Henry and Margaret (Schulter) Helmke of Hanover, Germany. He was born July 3, 1880, and came to this country in 1895. He married Margaret Post, June 7, 1899. They moved to Pine County and then to Murray County in 1913. One of the most successful farmers in Cameron, he was the first farmer to demonstrate that quack grass could be eradicated from the farm. He retired in 1928 and moved to Lake Wilson. His wife died in 1941. Mr. Helmke married Marie Meyer of Omaha, Nebraska. He left in October, 1946 for Texas to spend the winter, but was seized with a heart attack and died November 6, 1946. Mr. and Mrs. Helmke had ten children, Henry, John, Lena, William, Fred, Sophia, Herman, Mary, Ella, and Ralph.

Henry, born December 24, 1901, was married to Lillian Madge Ripley, born January 30, 1910, on September 25, 1929. They have four children, Eugene Vernon, January 24, 1931; Dale Leroy, April 21, 1933; Ronald Henry, December 10, 1936; and Darlene Claire, March 17, 1939.

John Henry was born May 15, 1903. He married Esther Elsie Koyn of Slayton, who was born August 27, 1904, on February 10, 1927. They have two children, Duane John, born February 3, 1931, and Shirley Ann who was born November 3, 1938.

Lena was born September 22, 1905. She married Chris Voss, February 14, 1924. They have four children: Leone, born November 22, 1924, who married Bueford Peterson. They have one daughter, Doreen Leona, August 10, 1946. They live at Mound. The boys, Duane, born December 16, 1928; Gerald, born December 21, 1932; and Raymond, born January 10, 1936, are at home. Mr. Voss was born October 24, 1896.

William August, born August 8, 1907, married Lila Oclaire of Spencer, Iowa, December 20, 1934. They have two boys: Allen Eldridge, born December 29, 1935; and Eldon Elbert, born November 26, 1942. Mrs. Helmke was born December 12, 1913.

Fred was born August 15, 1909, and married Olena Knudson, November 15, 1945. They live at Pipestone. Fred was a veteran of World War II and came out a top Sgt. He served in the European sector. Mrs. Helmke was born November 15, 1921.

Sophia was born December 29, 1910. She married Carl Neuhalfen February 9, 1935. They have two children: Phillip Lee, born March 9, 1936; and Richard, born February 27, 1940. They live at Omaha. Mr. Neuhalfen was born January 27, 1909.

Herman was born December 29, 1911, was married to Leila Bjerke on September 26, 1933. They have three children: Donna Agnes, born April 11, 1935; Sherill Herman, born April 8, 1938; and Jacqueline Leila, born January 29, 1944.

Mary was born November 26, 1914. She married Douglas Johnson. (See Johnson biography.)

Ella Bertha was born June 6, 1918. She married Dale Ohme, who was born January 14, 1913, on January 21, 1937. They have two children: Ardis Fern, born April 24, 1941; and Dianne Margaret, born January 4, 1946.

Ralph Julius married Ann Aga. (See Aga biography.)

THE ROLF HARMSEN FAMILY

Rolf and Elsabe Harmsen came to Cameron township in 1888 from Nebraska. They were the parents of 12 children: Ralph, Catherine, Herman, Mary, Elsie, Marcus, Hans, Emma, John, Herbert, Margaret and Adelia.

Ralph, who was cashier of the Hazen and Krem banks in North Dakota, during the 20's, married Nina McAllister in 1901. They have four children: Rhea, Rolf, Lyle and Lucas.

Rhea married Albert Beilke in 1927. They have 3 children: Mary, Gerald, and Richard.

Rolf married Ruby Grady. They live at Bismarck, North Dakota. They have 3 children: Lois, Rolf and Wilbur.

Lyle married Walter McDonald in 1932; was widowed in 1935; has 3 children: Shirley, Thomas and Barbara.

Lucas married Chloris Gass in 1939.

Catherine married Peter Wrigg in 1897. Mr. Wrigg died in 1908. She then married Peter Fredrickson. They raised 7 daughters: Clara, Hulda, Edna, Esther, Helen Marie, Verna and Helen Louise.

G. H. or Herman married Emma Beal in 1904. Four children were born: Laura, Walter, Charlie and Edna.

Laura, a graduate nurse, was married in Hawaii to Voler Viles; has one daughter, Kathleen.

Walter married Lenore Nelson of Hills. They have a daughter, Carol Jane, and a son, Larry.

Charles married Marjorie Colby of Rock Rapids, Iowa. They have one daughter, Patricia.

Edna married Robert Stewart and has two sons, Michael and Robert.

Mary married Fred Edwards in 1907. They lived at Woodstock until Mr. Edwards died in 1939.

Marcus died at the age of 21 in 1907.

Hans was 17 when he died in 1905.

Elsie, a graduate nurse, served overseas in World War I; married Charles Abel in 1919. They live in Orlando, Florida.

Emma, a graduate nurse, married Hans Hansen of Gretna, Nebraska. A daughter, Dorothy, was born in 1929. Emma died in 1940.

John married Ruth Meyers in 1916. Six children were born to this union: John Vincent, Gwendolyn, Paul, Jean, Mark and Ross.

Vincent is a veteran of World War II. He was attached to the 34th Eng., served in Australia, New Guinea and was wounded on Morotai in 1944. Was discharged in 1945, married Joan Roberts of Adelaide, Australia in 1944.

Gwendolyn married Douglas Mihin. (See Mihin biography.)

Paul was in the Navy in World War II, served in Japan; discharged 1946.

Jean is a cadet nurse in training at Rochester.

Mark is a student in the Lake Wilson High School.

Herbert died at the age of 32 in 1924.

Margaret married Phillip Burke in 1916. Two daughters were born to them: Phyllis, who died in 1928; and Dorothy.

Adelia married Wm. Nepp in 1919. (See Nepp biography.)

THE WESLEY HROMATKO FAMILY

One of the younger Iowa farmers who came to Murray County and made a success of farming was Wesley Hromatko, who landed in Lowville township in 1912. He came here first in 1912, returned to Iowa, and returned in 1915.

Wesley Hromatko was born in Ocheyedan, Iowa, May 21, 1888. He was united in marriage to Miss Emma Jenson December 9, 1913. Mrs. Hromatko was born on September 11, 1888.

To this union three children were born: Wilma Emily, Annel Jay, and Gladys Adra.

Wilma, who was born in Paulina, Iowa, died at the age of 23.

Annel J. was born in Lake Wilson and is now operating the home farm. He married Maybelle Moffat on June 26, 1943.

Gladys Adra, who was born in Lake Wilson, was united in marriage to Eldon Heetland of Ackley, Iowa, on June 13, 1943. They have two children: Stephen Jay born March 13, 1945, and Adra Ann, born October 22, 1946.

Mr. Hromatko's great grandfather, who was nearly a hundred years old, and Mr. Hromatko's mother are both buried at Ocheyedan, Iowa.

THE JOHN HEINS FAMILY

John Heins was born in Germany in 1857 and came to the United States in 1882.

He was united in marriage to Miss Sophia Emshoff in 1886. Mrs. Heins was born in Germany in 1863 and came to the United States in 1868.

Five children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Heins: Henry, Fred, Anna, Mary, and Herman.

The family moved to Cameron township, Murray County in 1896. Henry, who was a member of the infantry in World War I, died in the hospital at Camp Cody, New Mexico, on November 9, 1918. His death resulted from influenza.

Fred, Mary and Herman live on the farm in Cameron township.

Anna died April 17, 1905, from diphtheria.

John Heins was an outstanding member of the community and always took an active interest in all things pertaining to the betterment of the community. For many years he served on the town board in Cameron township.

THE EVAN E. JONES FAMILY

One of the striking figures in the early settlement of this section was Evan E. Jones. Mr. Jones was born in Wales in

1827, and came to this country in July, 1836. He worked seven years in a rolling mill in Indiana and attended the Baptist University at Granville, Ohio. He then moved with his parents to Brown County, Minnesota, in 1856. Mr. Jones took part in the defense of New Ulm, during the Indian outbreak of August, 1862. A month later skulking Indians killed his father when they were stacking grain, and Evan fled to the woods, ran down a ravine and took refuge in a slough where he and two German neighbors remained in hiding for eleven days subsisting only on corn and one small melon which he obtained at night from a near-by field.

He married Rachel Jones in June, 1866. He moved to near Lake Benton in 1878, and in 1879 traded the farm for the store and farm of L. Manchester near Bear Lake in Lowville township where he owned and operated the store and was postmaster there for many years.

To Mr. and Mrs. Jones were born: Elizabeth, Ellen, Mary, Hattie, Alice, Herbert, Diana, and Katie. Elizabeth was born in 1867.

Ellen was born in 1868. She was united in marriage to Arthur Bock of St. Paul, Minnesota, in 1896. Ellen died in April, 1933. They had two children: Vera and Edna.

Mary was born in 1869.

Hattie was born in 1872. She married John Davis of Lake Crystal, Minnesota, in 1895. Hattie died Thanksgiving Eve, 1945. They had two children, Ann and Arnold.

Alice was born in 1874. She married John F. Nelson of Slayton, Minnesota, in 1901. He passed away in March, 1946. They have a daughter, Fern.

Herbert was born in 1876. He was married to Jennie Augusta Bangston in 1906. They have two children: Oran, who married Ethel Miller in 1936. They have a daughter, Ruth Darlene. They live on the farm purchased by Grandpa Jones in 1879 and still owned by Oran's father, Herbert Jones of Balaton. Evelyn married Ernest Miller in 1935. They have two children, Roger Ernest and Dennis Burton.

Diana was born in 1877. She married Glen Garrett of Mankato, Minnesota, in 1902. They have a son, Lloyd.

Katie was born in 1879. In 1910 she filed on a homestead near Havre, Montana, where she met and married Joe Cuckler. They have four children: Daniel, Rachel, Herbert, and Alice Trudy.

Evan E. Jones died on the old home farm in Lowville township November 15, 1904. He was born in Wales in 1827. His wife, Rachel, was also born in Wales in 1836 and died in 1915 at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Alice Nelson, near Kremlin, Montana.

Herbert E. Jones was the only son of Mr. and Mrs. Evan E. Jones. He farmed the home place for many years, is retired and now lives at Balaton.

At the present time the five surviving daughters are living in or near Pasadena, California.

THE HANS JACOBSON FAMILY

Mr. and Mrs. Hans Jacobson, who were born in Norway, came to Murray county in 1873. Hans, who was a founder of the township, came here in 1872. They built the first frame house in the township. Five children were born to the Jacobsons: Jacob, Mary, Bernt, Caroline, and Ludwig.

Jacob married Mattie Amundson. They had four children: Mabel, Henry, Carl, and George. Jacob taught school in the county before going into business in Chandler. His son, Carl, is a graduate of Carleton. Mary married Charley Norwood. They had seven children: Rudolph, LaDue, Alva, Luella, Mabel, Eveline, and Sylvester. Luella is a graduate of Carleton and has a doctor's degree from Columbia. She also studied in Germany. Caroline married Nels Lewis. They have four children: Norma, Florence, Theodore, and Mabel.

Ludwig married Bertha Rakness. They had two children: Ruel and Irene. Ludwig, a graduate of Mankato normal, was county superintendent, graduate of the Minnesota University and was supervisor of Minnesota rural schools. His children are St. Olaf's graduates.

Bernt married Mary Clauson. They had five sons: Harry, Arthur, William, Leonard, and Rudolph. They adopted

Amanda Remstead, who married Leslie J. Wagley. They have four sons: Gordon, Lowell, Robert, and Roger.

Arthur, a graduate of Minnesota University, is superintendent of Agriculture in the Cloquet schools. He married Blanche Dumphey.

William married Merriam Knutson. They have three daughters: Maureen, Janet, and Marion. They live at Slayton.

Leonard married Mary Swarm. They have a son, Donald.

Rudolph, who is in the army, is married and has three children.

Bernt (B. H.) bought the homestead in 1891. He died in 1924. Harry bought the farm in 1929.

Harry married Bertha Thorson. They have four daughters, Maxine, Avis, Bette, and Mary Ann. Harry served in the Marine Corps in World War I. Maxine graduated from Mankato Teachers college and taught in Murray county. She was married to Robert F. Keller. They have one daughter, Linda, which is the fifth generation of the Jacobson family tree. Avis graduated from Mankato Teachers College and is teaching at Ellsworth. Bette attended Minneapolis Business College and is married to Robert C. Payton. Mary Ann, the youngest, is a senior at the Slayton high school. Thus the family tree of Hans Jacobson comes to an end without anyone left to carry on the Jacobson name on the homestead.

THE GILBERT JOHNSON FAMILY

Gilbert Johnson and his wife Anna were natives of Norway and came to America in 1866, landing at Quebec. From there they moved to Fillmore County, Minnesota. They came to Murray County in 1872, locating on a claim in township 106-42. Mr. Johnson was one of the active men in the new colony. He circulated the petition for the formation of Leeds township and presented it to the County Commissioners. He also took the first census of Leeds and held many other offices.

To Mr. and Mrs. Johnson were born, John G., Ingebor, Engebret, Hans, Andrew, Mary, Chris, Carl and Augusta.

John G. was born in Norway. He took an active part in politics and represented Murray County in the legislature for two terms. He was united in marriage to Johanna Solem. They had four children: George, Ida, Arthur, and Elsie.

George was united in marriage to Miss Rachel I. Brewster in 1914; four children were born to this union: Donald G., John G., Harold A., and Dale D. The four boys saw service in World War II; one of them, Harold A., was killed in action in the Mediterranean area on October 17, 1944.

Donald G. was a staff Sgt. in India with the 10th Air Force. He was married to Miss Evelyn Gowin, March, 1943. They have one daughter, Janet Kay.

John G. trained in the Air Forces, and was a Corporal.

Dale was a Pfc. in the 81st Inf. Division. The family lives in Lake Wilson.

Ida was united in marriage to Russel Gamble December 31, 1915. They have four children: Margaret, Lois, Shirley, and Joyce. Margaret was married to Gordon Payton of Slayton in October, 1938. They have two children, Leland and Dianne. Lois, the second daughter, was united in marriage to C. A. Lukens August 26, 1944. Mr. Lukens was a glider pilot in World War II, serving three years in the European sector. The other daughters, Shirley and Joyce are at home.

Arthur married Gerda Carlson in 1925. They have four sons: Richard, Wallace, Dwight, and Dennis. Wallace is a veteran of World War II, serving in the Japanese area. Dwight is in the army and is stationed in the Hawaiian Islands. Richard and Dennis are at home.

Elsie was united in marriage to Ben Toft in 1921. Five children were born to this union: Adele, Beulah, Neva, Dean, and Darrel.

Adele married Les Schrader in 1938. They have a daughter, Joan, born in 1939. They live at Sioux Falls, S. Dak.

Beulah married Dale Dayton in 1938. He was killed in action in France in World War II. He was a member of the 7th army. Two children, James and Nancy, were born to this union.

Neva, Dean and Darrel are at home.

Engebret was born in Rushford in 1869, and came to Leeds with his parents in 1872. He was married to Miss Serena Drake. They lived north of Hadley. Mr. Johnson died in April, 1936. To this union two children were born: Beatrice Myrtle and Leon Gilbert. Beatrice graduated from Mankato Teachers College and taught school in Murray County before she married Albert A. Olson. They live at Slayton, and have two children: Marlene Beatrice, and Gary Albert. Leon, the only son, is a graduate of St. Olaf, taught and coached football at Roseau for seven years. Married Eleanor Day of Clinton Falls; graduate of University of Minnesota. She taught at Roseau. They have three children, Leland Gilbert, Barbara Ellen, and Eileen Sylvia. They are managing the home place.

Andrew G. was born in this county. He was married in 1902 to Ida C. Nelson, who died in 1920. Three children were born to this union: Vern W., Lloyd and Avery C.

Vern was married to Miss Milda Frerk of Slayton in 1930. They have one son, Ronald, born June 20, 1931. Vern is president of the Murray County Livestock Improvement Association, and was assessor of Lowville township for seven years.

Lloyd married Ella Olson in 1932. They have one son, LeRoy. Avery is assisting his father on the farm north of Hadley.

Carl G. is the youngest son of Gilbert and Anna Johnson, was born July 25, 1879. He was united in marriage to Emma Alfreda Fresk, July 20, 1906. He farmed for several years and is now farming on the farm he and his family built up in Leeds township. He served on the Hadley creamery board for several years and is a member of the Hadley Elevator board. The following children were born to this union:

Herbert Fresk, born June 8, 1907, married Marie Quaintance; one child, Marilyn, was born to this union. Living on the farm once owned by his grandfather, Herbert has been active in all community affairs, serving as President of the Farm Bureau, President of the Murray County Co-op. Oil Co., member of the Extension Board, etc. He was appointed director on the State Farm Bureau board in 1946.

Craig Lowell, born December 13, 1918, was married to Donna Campbell. They have two children, Craig and Karen. Craig graduated from St. Olaf College, and is now teaching Physical Education at Benson, Minnesota.

Allen Eugene, born September 8, 1910, was married to LaVonne Olson. One child, Joyce, was born to this union. He is now farming in Leeds township.

Nolan Clair was born April 3, 1912, and is farming in Leeds township.

Douglas Earl, born November 20, 1913, was married to Mary Helmke. They have four children: Janice, Jerome, Joan, and James. He is living in Hadley, and is a member of the school board.

Vincent Keith was born August 22, 1922, and is farming with his father on the home place. He enlisted in the Navy in World War II.

Ingebor died in 1942.

Hans passed away a number of years ago.

Mary married Axel Knutson. They had ten children. (See Knutson biography.)

Chris was killed by lightning when he was 21 years old.

Augusta married Ole Solem. (See Solem biography.)

THE OLAUS JOHNSON FAMILY

One of the signers on the petition for the formation of Leeds township is Olaus Johnson, who came here with his wife in 1872. The Johnsons were born in Norway. They built both a sod house and a log cabin, the wood coming from Lost Timber. The Johnsons had eight children: Maren, Andrew, Matilda, John Ingebor, Christian, Olaf and Jacob. Maren married Tom Gunderson in 1883. Six children were born to this union: Gullick, Amelia, Ella, Lena, Nellie and Thea. Gullick still lives on the old farm. Amelia married Jacob Mattson in 1909. They have four children: Inger, Theodore, Olaf and Edna. Ella married Theo. Thompson. They had one son, Clifford.

Lena married the late Fred Oberg (see Oberg biography). Nellie married A. Hames. They have seven children. Tilda married Ole Bjorkman. They live on the Gunderson farm. They have three children: Jewell, Evelyn and Oriole.

Andrew married Clara Amundson. He took an active part in township affairs and was board chairman for several years in Lowville township. The Johnsons had seven children: Oscar, Inez, Clarence, Elsie, Richard, Florence and Goodwin. Oscar lives on the old homestead.

Inez married Joe Griesser. They had two children: Richard and Donna.

Clarence married Elizabeth McCarthy. Elsie married Harold Thompson of Slayton. They have two girls: Audrey and Bette Jean. Richard married Helen Glarum. They have two children: Ronald and Larry. Florence is at home with her mother. Goodwin married Fern Buse. They have four children: Roger, Joyce, Jean, and Andrea Gale. Matilda married Dan Carst. Both have passed away.

John M., who was postmaster at Chandler years ago, is dead. Ingeborg married Magnus Erdahl. They have five children. Christian, who lives at Karval, Colorado, has five children. Olaf is married and lives at Gordon, Nebraska. They

have five children.

THE THEODORE KNUTSON FAMILY

In the first group of settlers in Leeds were Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Knutson. Mr. Knutson came here in 1872 and was one of the petitioners for the formation of Leeds. He served over ten years on the town board and took an active part in all the early activities.

Mr. and Mrs. Knutson were born in Norway. Eight children were born to them: J. Axel, Walborg, Lucas, Trygve, Augusta, J. Donie, Rebecca, and Norma.

Axel married Mary Johnson. They had ten children: LaDue, Norma, Viola, Irene, Arnold, Merriam, Joseph, Evelyn, Lowell and Katherine. Walborg married Sig Satter. They had three children: LeRoy, who married Martha Christensen; Russel, who married Leota Sawyer; Lucas is unmarried.

Lucas Engelstad is married and lives in California. They have two adopted sons: Anthony and Harland. Lucas has been a pastor in the Lutheran church for over twenty years.

Trygve married Anna Fresk. They had two sons, Junior and James. Mrs. Knutson died and Mr. Knutson married Amy Stone, who had two children, Helen and Ross. James Knutson married Lydia Bacon. He was a member of the 103rd Infantry Div.; went overseas in 1944; wounded while leading an infantry platoon; recovered, and was on the line until January, 1945; was assigned to military government at Salzburg, Austria. Junior, who is a veteran of World War II, lives with his folks at Slayton. "Trig" was elected to the Minnesota legislature in 1946.

Gusta married Nels Evenson. They had four children: Geneva, Theodore, Phillip (deceased) and Neil.

J. Donie married Viola Kadolph October 21, 1914. They have four children: Byron, Glen, Delpha, (with the Murray Co. Co-op. Oil Co. of Slayton), and Beverly (with the Murray County State Bank at Slayton). Glen was Staff Sgt. in the 5th Air Force, attached to the 90th Bomb. Group. Had 49 missions on B-24's; top turret gunner; has Asiatic Pacific ribbon; six campaign stars; air medal; three oak leaf clusters, and is now with the National Citizens' Bank of Mankato.

Rebecca married Albert Holmberg. They have one child, Rebecca.

Norma married Rev. Victor L. Peterson of Abercrombie, North Dakota, October 15, 1919. They have three children: Rachel, who married Thomas Norris; Norma Evie, and Mark.

THE B. M. LOW FAMILY

Active in the early days of the development of western Murray county was B. M. Low. The Low family emigrated from New York to Wisconsin and from Wisconsin to Minnesota in the middle sixties. B. M. was a civil war veteran and took a

claim in Bear Lake timber in 1866. Mr. Low was a captain in the Union army. He held a long list of offices: was the first clerk in the township, first surveyor in the county, was county commissioner and finished his career with two terms in the legislature. He was married to Lora Zoe McCann in 1868. They came west the same year. To this union six children were born: Kate, J. M., Helen, Carl K., George and Lora.

Kate was united in marriage to Dr. Thurston in 1897. They had one daughter, Kathleen. Mrs. Thurston and her husband are both dead.

J. Marshall married May Peterson in 1897. To this union seven children were born: Bartlette, Dolores, Allen, Pauline, Leah, Wilbur and Glen. Bart, a veteran of World War I, married Mildred Barrows. They had one daughter, Lois. Bart died in 1930. Lois is attending the School of Commerce in Minneapolis. Dolores married Clare Braley. They live at Miles City, Montana. They have one daughter, Joan.

Allen married Jennie Mae Sullway in 1920. They have one daughter, Jacqueline. They live in Denver, Colorado.

Pauline married Dr. E. H. Allison in 1929. They live at Balaton.

Leah lives at San Diego, California. Wilbur died in 1921. Glen is at home.

Helen married Julius Gullord of Slayton in 1899. She died in 1931.

Carl married Miss Pearl Craig of Tracy. He was travelling auditor for a Canadian grain firm when he died in 1924. Two girls were born to this union: Helen Kathryn, born March 10, 1918, and Marjorie Craig, who died in infancy.

Dr. George Earl Low married Ethel Templeton. He was a graduate of Wesley University, Oregon. Was made a major in World War I. He died in 1935.

Lora married Zi Walbridge of Miles City, Montana. They live in Oakland, California.

THE JAMES LOWE, SR. FAMILY

The James Lowe family came to Lowville township in 1876. Mr. and Mrs. Lowe were natives of Perthshire, Scotland. Mr. Lowe had a brilliant and versatile mind and wrote articles of interest as well as many poems.

The Lowe's had seven children: James, Jr., born in 1849; David, in 1855; John, in 1857; Thomas, in 1858; William, in 1861; Minnie, in 1863; and Alexander, in 1866.

The Lowe family is one of the most prominent in western Minnesota, producing six doctors, college professors, business executives, educators, members of the Minnesota legislature, a Rhodes Scholar, county officials, and one of the largest road contractors in the west.

James, Jr., was married to Miss Annie Sheerin in 1880. While farming in Lowville township, he was elected sheriff of Murray County which office he held until his death in 1923.

Nine children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Lowe: Charles, John, Jim Davy, Minnie, Florence, Miles, Harry, Vernon, and Kenneth.

John was married to Miss Clara Larson, November 2, 1911. Mr. Lowe is postmaster at Slayton. To Mr. and Mrs. Lowe was born one son, Jack, Jr., who was married to Mary Wells on June 3, 1939; they have a daughter, Ann, born October 15, 1940, and a son, Jack, born November 24, 1945. The John Lowes have a daughter, Geraldine, who was born February 15, 1921. She was married to James Verhay June 20, 1944. They have a son, James, born March 20, 1945.

Chas. Lowe married Effie Engebretson, a granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Hans Simonson, the first settler of Leeds. He has been in the employ of the Massey-Harris Machine Company in Canada, being district sales manager. They have one adopted daughter, Alice, who married John Connors. He served with the Canadian and American Air Force and was killed in action.

Jim Davy was married to Miss Mable March December 29, 1909. They have one daughter, Mary Margaret, who was united in marriage to John Holland, September 10, 1936. They

have three children: John David, born July 28, 1941; Robert James, born October 11, 1944; Linda Kay, born August 28, 1946. Jim Davy has been managing the Boote plant in Slayton for the last 16 years.

Minnie Lowe was married to Leslie Mitson, October 7, 1908. They had three children: Frances Clare, James, and Jack. Minnie died November 23, 1929.

Florence was married to Jack Haberman, September 23, 1920. They have two children: John and Florence Ann.

Miles H. Lowe was married to Lillian Barnholdt, December 20, 1927. Mr. Lowe has been marshal of the village of Slayton for three years.

Harry was united in marriage to Lillian Breen, June 8, 1926. They have three children: Marilyn, born May 17, 1928; James, born May 17, 1932; and Judy, born December 9, 1939. Harry has been in the R. F. D. service for over thirty years.

Vernon died in infancy.

George Kenneth was married to Miss Mary Breen, April 6, 1931. They have five children: Margaret Ann, born April 19, 1935; Jean Marie, born May 20, 1937; George David, born June 5, 1933; Richard Allen, June 16, 1942; and Michael John, born December 1, 1946. Kenneth, besides being in charge of the Silverberg's Store, has held the office of mayor of Slayton four terms.

David Lowe married Betsy Paulson and for many years farmed in Lowville. They moved to Cheney, Washington, in 1902. Both Mr. and Mrs. Lowe have passed away.

Jack, who never married, was a farmer by occupation. Spent his life in southwestern Minnesota and Canada. He died in 1931.

Thomas was born November 8, 1858. In his youth he taught in Leeds and Skandia. He later attended medical college and started his medical career at Hadley. He later moved to Slayton where he practiced until 1904 when he moved to Pipestone. He served in the Minnesota Legislature from Pipestone County in 1935, 1937, and 1939. He passed away in St. Paul on March 12, 1939.

He was united in marriage to Miss Sarah Southwell on June 18, 1887, in Slayton. To this union four children were born: William, born December 7, 1892; Alice, born July 24, 1894; Margaret, born July 8, 1896; and Duncan, born August 15, 1900.

William Lowe was educated at Carleton and Mankato Business College. He was united in marriage to Eloise Haney, September 30, 1916. They have two children, Douglas Martin, and Mary Elizabeth. At one time, William was cashier of the First National Bank of Jasper, Minnesota. He lived in St. Paul for many years. While living there he held the positions of credit manager of Brown and Bigelow, bank examiner, and collector of internal revenue. In recent years, he has been auditor for the construction of the Alaskan Highway through Canada, and now is at Shafter, California, and auditor for the S. L. Camp Company at that location.

Douglas Lowe was born February 10, 1919. He graduated from Macalester College, and entered the service in 1941. Served 24 months overseas with 7th Bomb Air Group in India, covering Burma sector with a B-24. Was discharged as Captain. He is now with the Houghton Mifflin Co. and lives in Minneapolis. He married Faye Nadine Peterson of Crosby, December 31, 1942. They have a daughter, Barbara Jeanne, born February 1, 1946.

Mary Elizabeth was born December 12, 1920. She attended Macalester College and did secretarial work at North American Aviation Plant at Englewood, California, for three years. She married Harold William Pinkham of Los Angeles on November 7, 1943. They have one son, Stephen William, born March 9, 1945.

Alice was united in marriage October 5, 1921, to E. Raymond Hughes of Mankato. They have two children: Thomas Lowe Hughes, born December 11, 1925; and Marianne Hughes, born June 2, 1930. Thomas is a student at Carleton College. He is active in school work and was National president of Students' Federalists 1944-45. Was selected as Rhodes Scholar in 1946. Marianne is a student at the Mankato high school. E. Raymond Hughes is a graduate of Carleton. He has been commander of American Legion, Grand patron of O. E. S., U. S.

Commissioner since 1923, resident director of Mankato Teachers' College. He is an attorney by profession. Mrs. Hughes has been active in Women's Clubs, War Work, etc. Takes an active interest in civic and educational affairs. She is a graduate of Carleton College.

Margaret attended Carleton College, Whitewater Teachers' College, at Whitewater, Wisconsin, Twin City Business College, St. Paul, and Minneapolis Business College, Minneapolis. Has resided at home in Pipestone for many years while teaching Commercial subjects in the high school there. She has also taught in several other places in Minnesota and South Dakota.

Duncan attended Carleton and graduated from Minnesota University. He was united in marriage to Miss Mariam Buchanan of Tazewell, Virginia, in 1930. They have two daughters: Nancy Southwell, born October 25, 1938; and Margaret Allen, born August 19, 1943. Duncan spent many years in Texas, and returned to Minnesota in 1940, and is now controller and director in the Wm. Bros Boiler and Mfg. Company of Minneapolis.

Wm. Lowe was born in Canada, October 6, 1861, and came to Minnesota with his folks in 1876. He was the first teacher in Skandia township, teaching in a sod schoolhouse, with two little windows, home made benches, and walls of sod. Kids wore wooden shoes to school and made an awful clatter. No globes, no dictionary, no maps, very little of anything. From the schoolroom, he went to the Chicago Homeopathic Medical College in Chicago, graduating in 1889. Has been practising medicine ever since in Nebraska and South Dakota, and he says he is still at it. He served as postmaster for nine years.

Dr. Lowe has three children. George B. Lowe, born January 20, 1900, was a veteran of World War I. He now lives in Pasadena, Texas. Richard Barrett, a leading educator of South Dakota, was president of Sioux Falls College, president of the South Dakota Educational Association, and was prominent in other organizations. He has written several books. He is now at Peru, Nebraska. Was Lieut. Commander in second World War in Navy. His oldest son, Bruce, served in World War II.

The only daughter, Margaret Helen, married Garland R. Mundy. They have a son, William Lowe Mundy, who was in the Navy, took up medicine and is now an M.D. in the Navy Hospital at Boston, Massachusetts.

Minnie, the only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Lowe, Sr., was married to W. B. Stine in 1881. To this union five children were born. Mrs. Stine died at Tracy, Minnesota, January 12, 1947.

Alex, the youngest son, was married to Miss Ovdie Anderson, November 29, 1889. He has been an active and energetic citizen, being engaged in farming, stock raising, stock buying, and for a while was in the merchandise business. He served in the Minnesota Legislature for four terms and was a member of the Hadley council for 20 years. To Mr. and Mrs. Lowe were born four sons and one daughter.

Walter, who has been attached to the R. F. D. service at Slayton for over twenty years, married Mary Ingersoll. They have three children: Dorothy May, born September 20, 1922; Barbara E., born December 29, 1925; and Thomas W., born June 20, 1930. Barbara is a senior at St. Olaf College. Dorothy married Chas. Anderson, July 6, 1946.

Earl and Tom worked their way through the University of Minnesota and are practicing medicine at South St. Paul. They have been very successful, and besides general practice are medical advisors for both the Swift and Armour packing plants. Dr. Larson, a former Lake Wilson physician, is associated with them.

Earl Lowe was married to Miss Ann Tobin, November 1, 1924. They have three children: Alexander, Joan and Mary Alice. Joan is a student at the University of Minnesota. Mary Alice and Alexander are in high school. Mrs. Lowe passed away in December, 1945.

Tom was united in marriage to Birdie Keller of Marshall. They have a daughter, Bette.

George Lowe married Miss Pauline Larson in 1922. Four children were born to this union: Muriel, who married Clifford Freeman of Cedar Rapids, Iowa; George, Jr., who married Alice Bendix of Slayton; Andrean and Janice who are at

home with their father at Cedar Rapids. George, Jr., has one daughter, Winnifred Alice.

George started contracting at an early age and developed into one of the biggest contractors in Iowa. He has employed six crews and 1,500 men. He built many airports and other government installations during World War II. Mrs. Lowe passed away in April, 1946.

Jessie Lowe, the only daughter, was united in marriage to Clifford Reed in 1914, who was formerly in the banking business, but is now with the R. M. S. out of St. Paul. A daughter, Edith, married George Nelson of Elk Rapids. The other daughter, Alice, married William Cooper of Birmingham, Alabama. Charles is attending the University of Washington. Homer is engaged in the ice cream business. A son, Herbert, died in infancy.

THE MIHIN FAMILY

Mike Mihin and his wife, Mary, both natives of Ireland, came to America in 1849. Stopping along the way in the states of New York and Illinois they came to Minnesota, settling in Wabasha County.

They came to Murray County in 1872, and took a homestead in Section 32, where he built the log cabin, a picture of which appears in this book.

They had one son, John J., who was born in McHenry County, Illinois, August 23, 1856. He came to this county shortly after his parents located on a homestead in Lowville township. He was married in 1881 to Miss Katie Ryan of Millville. To this union five children were born; three of the children passed away and the two now living in 1946 are Frank and Viola. Ever since coming to this section John J. Mihin was active in all affairs of government, especially in school, township and county affairs, and to these branches he gave years of service, serving as a member of the school board for 46 years, as town clerk 50 years, and 16 years as county commissioner. He was also president of the First National Bank of which institution he was a charter member.

Frank was united in marriage to Miss Minnie Eichhorn in 1918. To this union five children were born: Douglas, Doris, John, Marie, and Viola.

Douglas is a veteran of World War II, serving in the Coast Guard for 28 months; twenty-one months in the European sector, and seven months in the Pacific. He was on a destroyer convoying troop ships, and was a Chief Machinist's mate. He was in five years and had 21 months at sea. He was united in marriage to Miss Gwendoline Harmsen in 1942. A girl, Mary C., was born to this union on February 7, 1945. This little miss is the fifth generation to live on the homestead taken back in 1872.

Doris was united in marriage to Otto J. Hruby, January 30, 1945. They live at Hinsdale, Illinois, and have one son, Michael Thomas.

Jack is in the U. S. Navy and its taking his boot training in California.

Marie and Viola are at home with their parents in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, where Marie is attending the Cathedral High School.

JOSEPH G. McGLASHEN

No man in Murray County has done more for patriotic and civic endeavor than Joe McGlashen. He has never been in the rear; always out in front doing what was expected of him and more too.

Joe is not what one would call a newcomer to western Murray County. Fifty-one years ago he worked in his father's elevator in Chandler. He worked there in 1896 and 1897, leaving to attend business college at Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

After finishing business school, he moved to Pipestone County where after farming for a number of years he entered the State Bank at Edgerton as assistant cashier. He remained there until 1919 when he returned to Chandler as cashier of the State Bank.

While serving as cashier he had the experience of being held up twice by bank robbers. The first time the loot amounted to \$1,777.00. The second time Joe, being of Scotch ancestry, talked the young fellows out of committing the crime.

But it was back in 1927 when he experienced real trouble. The bank was engulfed in the financial wave that swept over the entire United States. The bank was out and so was Joe and the outlook was blank for both of them. It's not very often that a cashier of a closed bank ever goes back to his job, but the folks in the community had faith in him, and best of all, Joe had faith in himself with the result that they pulled the bank from a dead level with no footings to one that has footings of over \$700,000; a mighty fine record for Joe, the stockholders, and the community.

Joe has been president of the bank now since 1945.

He has served his village well as recorder and school treasurer for at least twenty years.

His life has been one of service to this section of the county, service that has been given willingly and unselfishly. Honest and sincere, few men have more friends.

Joseph G. McGlashen was born in Traer, Iowa, October 23, 1880. His father James, was born in Scotland and operated a flour mill in Edgerton in the early days.

Mr. McGlashen was united in marriage to Miss Sarah Jane Evans of Edgerton, June 3, 1903. They have no children.

THE CARL H. NISSEN FAMILY

Carl H. Nissen, who was born July 1, 1887, came to Murray County with his parents in 1898, from Storm Lake, Iowa.

Carl started farming for himself in 1914 and took an active part in township matters. He was united in marriage to Miss Anna Micheel, of Cameron township, June 10, 1916. Mrs. Nissen was born February 9, 1897. To this union seven children were born: Loraine M., June 3, 1917; Arnold A., July 20, 1918; Viola F., born August 28, 1922; Erna A., born August 26, 1929; Christian H., born June 14, 1935; Dorothy Ann, born February 29, 1940. A daughter, Verna A., born October 18, 1927, died February 7, 1928.

Loraine, who is a graduate of the Mankato Teachers' College, taught four years in the rural districts and is now teaching in her fifth year at Kanaranzi.

Arnold is assisting his father on the farm.

Viola, who is also a graduate of the Mankato Teachers' College, taught in rural schools for four years. She was married to Clarence Klinker November 14, 1943. They live in Cameron township. Erna is attending high school at Lake Wilson.

Chris and Dorothy Ann are attending district school.

THE HANS NELSON FAMILY

Hans B. Nelson and wife, Bergethe, were born in Norway and came to Murray County in 1873. They homesteaded two miles east of Lake Wilson. Mr. Nelson was the most unfortunate among the early settlers losing his home by fire three different times. In the last fire his wife died from injuries received, leaving a babe of less than three weeks. On Mr. Nelson's shoulders fell the duty of raising his family of eight children.

The oldest Nelson son died in Norway, two boys were drowned while the family lived in Fillmore county, Anton and Ole died when they were young men. Three of the daughters, Sina, Ida and Marie, were school teachers. Sina married John Lane. They had three daughters, Selma, Jennie and Antoinette, also one adopted son, Clifford. Mrs. Lane died in 1920 and Mr. Lane in 1927.

Jennie married Claude Smith. They have two daughters: Dorothy and Francile. Dorothy married Nelvin Larson. They had one daughter, Eloise, who died in 1945. Francile married Robert Peterson of St. James.

Josephine married Otis Lapham. They had five children. Lester married Cora Graf. They have two children: Donna Joan and Erla. They live at St. Croix Falls, Wis. Russell and his wife and son, Peter Kent, live in Alaska. Leland was with the Boeing Air Craft Co. for six years. He lives at Luck, Wis. Landon was a captain in the Medical corps and spent two years in the Philippines. Was on General Staff of hospital at Highland Park, Mich. They have a son, Richard. Alice lives in Milwaukee, Wis.

Ida married Andrew G. Johnson (see Johnson biography).

Ellen, the youngest daughter, married Bert A. Olson in 1907. They have eight children—Kenneth L. is teaching and coaching at Maxwell, Iowa. He married Marjorie Wood in 1940. They have two children: Lowell and Marlys. Thelma married Harry Eager. They have a son, James Allen. Lenora married Emil Dvorak. They have four children: David, Sandra, Bruce and Douglas. Luther married Maxine Lundgren. He teaches at Stanton, Iowa. They have two children: Gerald and Tressa. Helen married Paul Wilke. They have a son, Paul. Naomi married Robert Merryman in 1945. Eugene is attending Luther College. Gerald is with his parents at Fort Dodge. He is attending Junior College. The father, Rev. B. A. Olson, was ordained in the Lutheran church in 1915. He served at Stavanger, Seneca, and Marseilles, Illinois and at Badger, Iowa.

Hans Nelson was one of the founders of Leeds township. He signed the petition for the formation of the township.

THE JULIUS F. NEPP FAMILY

Julius Frederick Nepp was born January 15, 1868. He came to America in 1882. He came to Minnesota in 1886 with his father and mother, Frederick and Augusta Nepp. Julius worked on the farm in the summer. In the winter he would work in the coal mines at Streator, Ill. He married Linna Bauman at Streator, Ill., March 26, 1891. They came to Minnesota that year and started farming for themselves. Seven children were born to them.

Carl, married Tena Nelson of Absaraka, N. D. in 1914. They have two children: Kathryn, a graduate of University of Minnesota, taught in schools in Michigan, Minnesota and North Dakota. Alice did secretarial work for the N. W. Air Lines and North Dakota Agricultural College. She married Harold Goble, September 1946. They live at Fargo, N. D. Carl has been depot agent at Absaraka since 1911.

Walter married Bertha Reese in 1916. Farmed in Cameron Township until 1945 when they retired. Walter was town clerk for 24 years and school treasurer for 24 years. They live at Pipestone.

Elmer married Myrtle Peterson in 1923. They have two children: Derald, who farms with his father, and Donald, a sen-

ior in high school. Elmer was a corporal in World War I, serving in England and France.

William married Delia Harmsen in 1919. They live on the farm his grandfather bought in 1885. Four children were born to them: Mahlon, married Una Lopau of Pipestone, is farming with his father; Marion died at the age of seven in 1932; Howard went into the Merchant Marine in 1944, now an ensign, was active in sports, all star District Basketball team in 1944; Roger was Valedictorian of the class of 1945, played on All Star Basketball team '44-'45. Received two medals. Roger died in 1946 at the age of 18.

Irene is a graduate of Stout Institute and taught Home Ec. in schools in Iowa and Minnesota. Was married to Stephen Stephenson in 1926. They have two children: Audrey, born August 17, 1928 who is attending St. Olaf and Norris, born February 26, 1931, is attending Slayton High School. Mr. Stephenson is a veteran of World War I; he was a Sergeant in the 88th Division.

Ewald attended U. of Minn., is connected with the Investors Syndicate, married Ray McCauley of Mobridge, S. D. in 1929. They have two children: Nancy and John, who are attending school in Albert Lea.

Paul died at the age of two in 1906.

Mr. and Mrs. Julius F. Nepp assisted in organizing the German Evangelical Church, the first church in Lake Wilson. They later joined the Lutheran Church.

Mr. Nepp helped organize the Farmers' Elevator and Lumber Company, and was on the board for several years. Was a charter member and President of the First National Bank of Lake Wilson.

The J. F. Nepps, Sr., celebrated their golden wedding anniversary March 26, 1941. J. F. Nepp died in 1944, age 76. His widow lives in Lake Wilson.

THE HENRY NETT FAMILY

Henry B. Nett was born November 6, 1883 at Wershoven, Germany. In 1904 he and his brother, Herman, immigrated to America; he settled in Lake Wilson, Minnesota. He was united

in marriage to Meta Martins April 17, 1912. He managed the Farmers Elevator for 18 years; resigning, he entered the hardware business until his death October 30, 1944.

Mrs. Nett also arrived from Germany in 1910, with her parents, Martin Martins and four brothers and two sisters. They had eight children: Margaret, Thelma, Herman, Martin, Ann, Helen, Emma and Henry.

Margaret was united in marriage to John Van Eede in 1940; they have two children: John and Robert.

Thelma was married to Russell Gillette in 1936. They have two children: Ronald and Michael; they live in Creve Coeur, Illinois.

Herman worked in his father's Hardware store until his call came for the army in November 1942. He sailed on the Queen Mary to England in August 1944. He was attached to the Ninth Armored Division and later joined Patton's Third. He fought on the Siegfried Line and was killed in action in Germany on April 15, 1945.

Martin was married to Orla Scarset in 1942. He is with the Coast Guard and ranks as Chief Commissionary Steward and is stationed at Boston, Massachusetts.

Ann married Allan Clauson in 1941. They have three children, Nancy, Thomas and Judith. They live in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Helen was married to Lloyd Olson of Hadley on June 2, 1942. To this union a son, David, was born on June 20, 1944. Mrs. Olson died December 13, 1944.

Emma is employed with the accounting department of the Standard Oil Co. in San Francisco, California.

Henry is attending St. Johns College at Collegeville, Minn. He served with the navy for two years.

THE SWEN NELSON FAMILY

Among the early settlers of Leeds township were Swen and Eliza, natives of Sweden, who settled here in 1872, coming here via Decorah, Iowa. The Nelsons were real pioneers, Mr. Nel-

son being one of the men who signed the petition for the formation of Leeds township. With them came their son, Herman, who was born in 1855. Herman took a homestead on section 4, and from there rose to be one of the most prominent men in the county. He moved from the farm to Hadley to enter the general merchandise business in 1881 and in 1887 he entered the general merchandise business in Slayton. Gaining in popularity he was elected register of deeds which office he held for several terms. When he retired he was elected to the legislature in 1917 and 1919. The Nelsons had three children: George, Lawrence and Isabel.

Soon after reaching manhood George was elected sheriff of Murray County, a position he has held for over twenty years. Mr. and Mrs. Nelson have two children: Leslie and Sadie.

Leslie married Mildred Brue in 1937. Sadie married Al Wolfe in 1939. They have a daughter, Sue Ann.

Lawrence married Mildred Flom in 1918.

George, the sheriff, was united in marriage to Miss Verna Slaybaugh in 1910.

THE A. J. OSBORNE FAMILY

Albert J. Osborne was born at Sutherland, Iowa in 1871. He was united in marriage to Miss Edna Simar, November 18, 1896. The family moved to Lake Wilson in 1901. Mr. Osborne was Lake Wilson's first dray man. He always took an active part in Methodist church affairs and for 30 years was president of the Sunday School. Five children were born to Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Osborne: Eunice, born in 1900; Rowena in 1904; Helen in 1906; Page in 1908, and Mildred in 1917.

Eunice was united in marriage to A. E. Reha in 1920. Mr. Reha has been manager of the Hubbard & Palmer elevator here for several years. The Rehas have three children: Lorna, Jean and Byron. Lorna married George Sierk, see Sierk biography. Jean attended the Minneapolis Business School and now works for the New York Life Ins. Co. in Minneapolis. Byron spent three years in the navy in World War II, mostly in the Atlantic and North Africa areas. He was a member of the crew on air-

plane carrier "Guadalcanal." He is now attending the Manhato Commercial College.

Rowena married Chester Perry in 1926. They have a daughter, Ardyce, born in 1932. The Perrys live in Lake Wilson.

Helen married Mahlen A. Clauson, see Clauson biography.

Page Francis married Olga Rasmussen in 1932. They have three children: Royce P., Janice L., and Cheryl Jane. They live at Balaton.

Mildred was born in 1917, attended normal school in Slayton, taught in Murray county schools five years, attended Mankato Commercial college, is now employed by the Honeywell Company of Minneapolis.

THE ALBERT OBERG FAMILY

Albert Oberg was united in marriage to Nannie J. Bangston at Tisklwa, Illinois, February 17, 1887 and came to Murray County in April 1887. They settled on the N. E. ¼ of section 31, in Lowville Township where they lived until March 1926 when they moved to Lake Wilson. Five children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Oberg: Fred E., Clarence A., Miles D., Ada L., and Leslie S.

Fred E. married Lena Gunderson in 1909. They had four children: Lillian (deceased), Marvin, Victor and Vivian. Fred died in 1916.

Clarence A. was united in marriage to Eula Spurlock of Center, Texas, May 21, 1922. To this union four children were born: Alvin F., Olner F., with the U. S. army in Japan; Lloyd M., and Aris M. Clarence served in World War 1; he was with the 313th ammunition train with the 88th Division. He lives at Raymondsville, Texas.

Miles D. was united in marriage to Annabelle Scholl of Larrabee, Iowa, February 8, 1926. They have three children: Miles D. Jr., Jane E., and Janis E.; they now farm in Pipestone County.

Ada was united in marriage to Albert C. Jentz of Henderson, Minn., June 27, 1943. They live at Henderson.

Leslie S. was united in marriage to Mildred R. Carlson of Lake Wilson, December 28, 1927. They have three children: Kenneth L., Donald L., and Mildred Joan. They are farming on the old home place where his father settled 60 years ago.

Ada attended the University farm school, Leslie and Miles attended the Mankato Commercial College and Clarence attended the Parker College at Winnebago.

Albert Oberg was a striking figure in the development of this community. He had good business sagacity and became successful. He encouraged the raising of hogs here in the early days and shipped the first car load from Lake Wilson. He was deeply interested in the Lake Wilson Farmers Co-op. Elevator & Lumber Company and devoted time and money to the institution. He served as its president for many years. He was also a staunch supporter of the Methodist church at Lake Wilson. His son, Leslie, is following in his father's footsteps in his interest in the Farmers' Co-op. Elevator Co. and the Methodist church, and is one of the most modern farmers in this area.

THE ANDREW I. OLSON FAMILY

Andrew I. Olson was born near Spillville, Iowa, June 15, 1856. He came to Murray County in 1882 and in 1883 married Miss Lena Holmen of Hadley. After his marriage he took a homestead in Chanarambie township. In 1894 he entered the general merchandise business at Chandler. In 1897 he sold the store and moved on a farm east of Lake Wilson. He took an active part in civic and religious affairs; he was one of the organizers of the Lake Wilson Farmers' Elevator Company and the Hadley creamery, and also was a charter member of the Lake Wilson Lutheran church.

Mrs. Olson died in 1910. Mr. Olson then moved to Slayton where he was in business until 1914 and returned to the farm. He moved to Chandler in 1925 where he lived until his death September 18, 1935. Six children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Olson: Bert A., Oscar A., Ernest, Clifford, Carl and Chester. Clifford and Carl died in infancy and Chester died at the age of 11. Bert A., the oldest, married Miss Ellen Nelson (see the Hans Nelson biography). Oscar was born October 8, 1886. He was united in marriage to Helen Van Winkle in 1925. They

have three children: Gordon, Margaret and Rodney. Gordon B. Olson was born May 30, 1926. He entered the army August 7, 1944. He was attached to the 15th infantry of the 3rd Division. He took part in the drive on the Siegfried Line and was wounded March 18, 1945. He died from the effects of his wounds on March 20, and was buried on March 21 in the U. S. Military cemetery at St. Avold, France, 23 miles west of Metz. Gordon, for bravery of the highest degree, was awarded a citation and with it the Distinguished Service Cross. Rodney is attending high school at Lake Wilson. Margaret married Ray Thorne of the Canadian army.

Ernest was born October 11, 1891 and is a veteran of World War I; he lives at Chandler, Minnesota.

Mr. and Mrs. Olson conduct the Gamble store in Lake Wilson.

THE C. F. SIERK FAMILY

Chas. F. Sierk was born in Fort Calhoun, Nebraska and came to Minnesota in 1915 settling on a farm that had been in the Sierk family for 45 years. Since coming to Minnesota Mr. Sierk has been active in township affairs as well as in projects for the benefit of agriculture and did much to promote the Farm Bureau and its affiliations. He is now serving as county commissioner from the 3rd District.

He was united in marriage to Edna Jane Vaughan, March 6, 1907. To this union six sons were born: John L. 1908, Harry G. 1910, Carl F. 1912, Lyle and Leon (twins) in 1920; George M. in 1921. No family in this section exceeded that of the Sierk family in war service. Out of the six sons, five saw service in World War II.

John L. was married in Springfield, Mo. to Freda Moody. She passed away on January 1, 1946. John saw European service in the last conflict, taking part in the Battle of the Bulge. He was a top sergeant when discharged.

Harry G., a graduate of Dunwoody in Minneapolis, was married to Gertrude Foster of Minneapolis. They have two girls: Susan and the baby Sara Jane, who was born March 9, 1947. Harry, also, saw service in the European sector being a Sergeant in the 8th Radio Force.

Carl F., after attending high school here, graduated from the state agricultural college and from the college of Agriculture at Moscow, Idaho. He was 1st Lieut. in the Coast Guard, being stationed on the S. S. Pomona, Marine Division. He was married to Miss Frances Smith in 1941. They have one daughter, Catherine.

Lyle and Leon were twins: Lyle was one of Minnesota's ace airmen having participated in many daring exploits. He enlisted before war was declared and was in Honolulu during the attack of December 7, 1941. Winning his way to the top he had 50 flying missions and 251 combat flying hours over enemy territory to his credit. He was forced down in Russian territory. Besides having the Distinguished Flying Cross, he also had the Air Medal, the Pilot Wings of the Yugoslavian air force decorations which were pinned on him by King Peter. He trained and led Yugoslavian Combat Troops in England. He met an untimely death in an airplane accident near Lake Wilson, Sunday, September 1, 1946. Lyle was married to Miss Flo Piasser of Brooklyn, N. Y. September 15, 1942.

Leon, the other twin, was left to assist in the farm work. He was united in marriage to Miss Erma Eichhorn, July 20, 1946.

George finished his education at the State Agriculture School. Enlisted in the war, he spent three and a half years in the Pacific area and was a Master Technical Sergeant Air Corps Ground Supply Squadron. He was united in marriage to Miss Lorna Reha, July 22, 1943. They have one daughter, Muriel Edna.

THE GEORGE H. SMITH FAMILY

George H. Smith was one of the first settlers of Cameron Township. He was united in marriage to Miss Emma Shipley in 1880.

The Smiths moved to Lake Wilson in 1893. Mr. Smith entered the general merchandise business and later became postmaster.

They had seven children: Wallace, Maud, Robert, Charles, Lyle, Harold, and Helen. Wallace was united in marriage in

1919 to Miss Amy Baldridge. To this union five children were born: Lavonne, Fay, Dean, Arliss, and Connie. Lavonne died in 1943. Fay was married in 1943 to Don Babcock. Don saw six years service in Newfoundland, and the European sector. He came out a Tech. Sgt. in the 30th Division. Sgt. Babcock is a past commander of Herbert Holtke Post No. 285. They have one son. Dean, who saw three years' service in World War II, was attached to the 70th Division. He had the rank of Sergeant. Arliss is a graduate of the Lake Wilson High School.

Maud was united in marriage to Frank Webster, son of one of Lake Wilson's first business men. Mrs. Webster died in 1922.

Robert was united in marriage to Miss Martha Dally in 1918. He has been rural mail carrier here for nearly thirty years. Five children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Smith: Doris, who is now deceased; Eldon, Audrey, Delilah, and Esther. Eldon is serving in the army of occupation in Japan. Audrey married Elmer Martensen in 1941. They have three children: Larry, James, and Ronald. Delilah married Chester Baack in 1939. They have three children: Dianna, Dennie, and Richard. Esther was united in marriage to Myrl Bruemmer in 1946.

Charles was married February 8, 1917 to Miss Emma Kerger. Mr. Smith is now postmaster in Lake Wilson as his father had been before him in 1892. They have three children: Tech. Sgt. Kenneth Smith who served six years in World War II, serving in the African, Sicilian, Italian, and European campaigns. He married Miss Martha Fjellenger in February 1946. Vivian married Don Osmonson in 1942. They have two children. Rodney is now editor of the Lake Wilson Pilot. Rodney was in the Pacific area for three years in World War II and came out a SC-3c.

Lyle Smith married John Twedt of Sioux Falls, S. D. They have two children: Oliver and Robert.

Harold married Sadie Baldridge in 1938. They have an adopted child. They live at Backus. Hade was attached to a torpedo destroyer flotilla during World War I.

CHARLES SWAN, SR. FAMILY

Charles Swan was born in Easter Junby, Skona, Sweden, on October 7, 1869. He borrowed money from a relative and came to the United States landing in Murray County on May 21, 1884. He worked for George Wilkinson for \$5.00 a month. That was the start and he worked hard, was thrifty, a good manager, a fine family, and finally owned at one time about 3,000 acres of land. He was one of the, if not, the largest landowner in western Murray county but he is dividing his holdings among the children. He has taken an active interest in politics and affairs of government. He served for 14 years on the town board of Lowville, took part in organizing two school districts and among the many official positions he has held was one on the Federal Land Bank Association.

He was united in marriage to Miss Anna Johnson on November 14, 1890. Mrs. Swan was born in Skona, Sweden, on January 26, 1872. To Mr. and Mrs. Swan were born 13 children, of whom eleven are now living. They have all been brought up in the Lutheran faith.

HISTORY OF THE SWAN FAMILY

- Stanley A. Swan: Born March 5, 1892, Cedar County, Hartington, Nebraska. Lost sight at the age of nine. Graduated from the school for the blind at Faribault, Minnesota. Lives with his father in Balaton, Minnesota.
- Della L. Swan: Born October 1, 1893, Mason Township. Married Heye Greenfield, born April 11, 1887, September 12, 1916, deceased May 1, 1944. Now lives with her father in Balaton. One child, Muriel Greenfield, born November 1, 1922. Married Dean Dinsmore of Ulen, Minnesota. One child: Steven Charles Dinsmore, born October 17, 1946—a great grandchild.
- Charles Swan, Jr.: Born May 29, 1895, Lowville Township.
 Lives on a farm in Lake Sarah Township. Married
 Edith Hokanson, born February 15, 1897, on February
 15, 1922. Two children: Charles V. Swan, born March
 16, 1923. Married Eunice Nelson, June 16, 1946. Lola
 Swan, born March 16, 1932.

- Nels H. Swan: Born November 16, 1896, Lowville Township.
 Lives on a farm in Skandia Township. Married Anna
 Hermodson of Crookston, Minnesota. Born in Sweden
 March 16, 1903. Married September 19, 1934. Four
 children: Dennis Swan, born April 15, 1936; Donald
 Swan, born June 4, 1938; Daryle Swan, born July 17,
 1939; Marilyn Swan, born August 1, 1943.
- John E. Swan: Born September 11, 1898, Lowville Township.
 Married Olga Nyquist, born January 3, 1900, February
 12, 1926. Lives on a farm near Hadley, Minnesota.
 Two children: Harriet Swan, born November 26, 1928;
 Harris Swan, born February 28, 1935.
- Mabel D. Swan: Born June 25, 1900, Lowville Township. Married Walter Zabel, born March 25, 1897 on October 7, 1931. Lives on a farm near Garvin, Minnesota. One child, Vernon Zabel, born May 24, 1932.
- Oscar L. Swan: Born July 24, 1903, in Lowville Township. Married Leva Helmke, born November 12, 1904, on January 1, 1935. Lives at Balaton, Minnesota. Operates an oil station at Balaton.
- Alfred E. Swan: Born September 8, 1906, Lowville Township. Married Ruth Swanson, born July 22, 1912, on February 14, 1940. Lives on a farm in Skandia Township. Two children: Darlene Swan, born May 19, 1942; Douglas Swan, born May 29, 1945.
- Hilding B. Swan: Born January 18, 1908, Lowville Township.
 Married Blanche Kadolph, born April 21, 1918, on
 March 31, 1943. Lives on the home farm in Lowville
 Township. One child: Betty Swan, born March 30, 1945.
- Viola E. Swan: Born April 18, 1910, Lowville Township. Married Harry Hanson, born January 2, 1911, on March 16, 1937. Lives on a farm in Skandia Township. One child: Robert Hanson, born July 25, 1940.
- Allan P. Swan: Born July 16, 1912, Lowville Township. Married Orla Nelson, born October 29, 1916, on May 8, 1941. Lives on the home farm in Lowville Township. One child: Corrine Swan, born April 23, 1946.

Stanley, who lost his eyesight when a boy, has been in business and is now a traveling salesman and has supported himself for the last thirty years—a real accomplishment for a blind man.

THE HANS SIMONSON FAMILY

Mr. and Mrs. Hans Simonson who were born in Norway, were Leeds Township's first settlers, arriving here in July 1872. Both of them have long since passed away.

Seven children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Simonson: Simon, Bertha, Iver, Carrie, Knute, Turena and John.

Simon had six children: Henry, Gertrude, Charles, Lillie, Chester and William. Henry is married, lives near Ellendale, and has one married daughter. Gertrude lives at Ray, North Dakota. She has two daughters: Margaret and Dorothy. Lillie is married and lives in California. She has one daughter. William lives at Wheelock, North Dakota. Charles and Chester farm the home place. Simon and his wife passed away several years ago.

Bertha married John Anderson of Fillmore county. They have ten children: Andrew, Hans, Julia, Peter, Anna, Lena, Hannah, Edward, Nettie, and John.

Carrie married Ira Engebretson in 1882. Four children were born to this union: Archie, Effie, Bertha, and Lulu. Bertha died in 1886. Effie, born in 1886, married C. F. Lowe in 1907. They live in Canada. Archie, who was born in 1890, was married to Violet Hillquist of Balaton in 1915. They have two children: Howard and Ardis. Howard is a veteran of World War II. Traveling with the E. T. O., he encircled the world. Ardis works in the Murray County State Bank. Ardis was married to Harold Martin, January 11, 1947. Mr. Engebretson has been a rural mail carrier for thirty years. Lulu, born in 1895, married James Jensen. They have four children: Wallace, Iola, Barbara, and Robert. They live at Worthington. Wallace served in World War II and returned with an English wife.

Ira and Peter Engebretson were engaged in the mercantile business at Lake Wilson for years. Ira was also postmaster.

Ira moved to Hadley to enter the mercantile business and again served as Postmaster. Archie was Postmaster and managed the store for a year. Peter sold his store at Lake Wilson and moved on a farm near Madison, Minnesota. Both Ira and Peter passed away some time ago. Turena was married to Peter Engebretson in 1885. They had five children: Veda, Lawrence, Mayme, Nettie and Marvin. Nettie died at the age of 12.

Veda, born in 1892, married Helmer Oslund. They have three children: Gordon spent five years in the service in World War II. He was married to Edith Stoneberg of Chandler. They have a son, Gary John. Lois, born in 1926, married Alvin Rheinhold in 1944. They have one girl, Dianne Louise. Robert, born in 1922, is at home with his parents.

Lawrence, born in 1894, is married and has a daughter, Sonja, born in 1945. They live near Madison. Marvin, born in 1906, is with his mother on the farm. Mayme, born in 1897, married Clarence Linde in 1920. They have four children: Clifton, born in 1922, served in World War II. Robert, Dorothy, and Gerald are at home.

Kaute, born in 1860; John born in 1866, and Iver born in 1854 have passed away. They were bachelors.

Mrs. Carrie Engebretson and Mrs. Turena Engebretson are the only living children of Mr. and Mrs. Hans Simonson, first settlers of Leeds township. Mrs. Carrie is the oldest member of the Hadley Lutheran Church and the oldest living resident of Leeds township.

THE LARS O. SOLEM FAMILY

Lars O. Solem and wife were born in Norway and came to Murray county in 1872, settling on a claim. Mr. Solem was one of the signers on the petition for the formation of Leeds township in 1873. They had four children: Mary, Johanna, Martin and Ole.

Ole was married to Augusta Johnson December 16, 1903. They live in Hadley. They had six children.

Gladys Lenore born in 1904 was united in marriage to Oscar Benson. Twelve sons were born to this union; ten are still living.

Marvin was born in October 1907. He is a veteran of World War II serving in New Guinea. He served in the Engineer Division. Married Dorothy Reynolds of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, where they now live. Marvin is a road builder.

Harris was born in 1910. He was in the air corps and saw service in England and France during World War II.

Lester was born in 1912, married Gladys Lundeen. Two children were born to this union, Brian and Cleo. He is employed in the Hadley Creamery.

Arden was born in 1916. He is now in the employ of the Hadley Creamery.

Margaret, who was born in 1922, married Lawrence Amundson of Lake Wilson. They now live in Lake Wilson.

Ole had the longest term of service of any man in the history of the Hadley Co-operative creamery. He served over thirty years and retired two years ago.

THE PETE THOMPSON FAMILY

One of the founders of Leeds Township back in 1872 was Pete Thompson. When he came here he was known as Peter Sacarrisen. The name was an unusual one and was hard for his neighbors to pronounce so he changed it to Pete Thompson.

A popular man was Pete. One year he was elected as Peter Sacarrisen to the town board and the next time he was elected as Pete Thompson. He took up a claim on the western side of the township. He was a carpenter by trade and made many coffins in the early days besides building homes and barns after the railroads came.

He was married to Elena Ruen in 1876. To this union one son, Theodore, was born. One son was born to Theodore, his name is Clifford A. Thompson. He married Miss Elsie Yearous at Madison, South Dakota, October 26, 1934. Three children were born to this union: Keith Albin, May 5, 1937; Gary

Lee, April 7, 1940; Carolyn Kay, February 18, 1944. Clifford and family live on the homestead that his grandfather filed on in 1872.

Mrs. Peter Thompson died on February 17, 1947.

THE JOHN A. TUTT FAMILY

John A. Tutt came to Murray County in 1901. He broke up the prairie and raised flax and wheat on his father's farm, north of Lake Wilson. In 1904 he located on the farm. He has been a member of the board of directors of the Farmer' Co-op. Elevator and Lumber Company for several years and in all community affairs.

John Tutt and Christine Corneliussen were married at Alta, Iowa in 1908. They had eight children: Mary, Arthur, Earl, John, Fred, Carroll, Irene, and Ralph.

Mary graduated in 1931 from Nurses' Training after two years at Pipestone Memorial Hospital and one at Ancker, St. Paul. She became a Minnesota registered nurse and worked short periods in the Indian Hospitals at Pipestone and Flandreau. She received an appointment to Ft. Duchesne, Utah. She married Robert Owens in 1941. They have three children: Mary Roberta, Barbara and Beverly.

Arthur was married to Nina Parrish in 1931. They live in Chico, California, where he is an electrician. They have two childgen: Barbara and Maxine.

Earl graduated from Dunwoody School in Minneapolis, in 1940. He lives at Vallejo, California, and is an electrician in the shipyards at Mare Island.

John married Stella Erickson in 1941. They live on a farm and have three children: John, Judith and James.

Fred enlisted in the army in February 1941. He was in the 2nd Bn. Sr. A. Btry. 147th Field Artillery. He was stationed at Fort Ord, California, until he left the United States in November 1941. He arrived in the Pacific theatre January 6, 1942. He served in the Australia, East Indies, and New Guinea campaigns. He returned to the United States in April

1944 and was transferred to Ft. Bragg and Camp Butner, N. C. until in October when he received his discharge.

Carroll has helped on the farm since he graduated from high school. The last two years he and Fred have been in partnership with their father.

Irene enlisted in the Navy in June 1943. After training in New York and Great Lakes, she was stationed at Glenview, Ill. She was transferred to Dallas, Texas January 1945 and received her discharge in November 1945. She graduated from Mc-Connell Airline Hostess school in Minneapolis in August 1946 and is now stationed in San Francisco. Her flights are between San Francisco, Los Angeles, and Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Ralph died in infancy.

Sam Tutt, the father of John, was a pioneer in Buena Vista county, Iowa, and underwent all the privations of the early settlers. He came to Murray county in 1938 and purchased 400 acres of land in Ellsborough township.

THE BENJAMIN F. WARREN FAMILY

Benjamin F. Warren was born October 4, 1856 in Ireland. After coming to this country he lived for a time in Wisconsin, coming to Chanarambie township in 1881. Mr. Warren did much to introduce full-blooded horses, cattle, and sheep in this section and he always took an active part in the affairs of government. He died July 13, 1925.

He was united in marriage to Miss Lizzie Sheppard on March 27, 1881. Mrs. Warren was born in Algone, Wisconsin November 9, 1858 and died December 21, 1940. Four children were born to this union: Ralph B., January 3, 1883; Walter T., March 14, 1885; Arthur, born December 9, 1886, who died in infancy; and Winnie, born October 26, 1888.

Ralph B. was united in marriage in 1908 to Catherine Rathman, of Blair, Nebraska, born December 9, 1881. To this union were born five children:

Arthur, who was born July 6, 1909, was married to Miss Viola Johannsen of Pipestone—born May 11, 1915—on Sep-

tember 14, 1940. They have four daughters: Patricia, born July 9, 1941; Karen, March 17, 1943; Barbara, on November 23, 1944; and Ardelle, born September 19, 1946.

Marjorie, born April 26, 1911, was united in marriage to Clarence N. Lange, of Avoca, September 12, 1941. They have two daughters: Caryl, born June 20, 1942, and Muriel, born April 16, 1946.

Winifred, born October 25, 1912, was married to Edwin C. Madison of Slayton, October 30, 1931. They have four children: Betty, born August 21, 1932; Myrna, on May 28, 1934; Warren, born January 17, 1938; and Judy, born on November 14, 1940.

Frances, born April 28, 1914, married Dr. Carl Steinhauser of Mountain Lake on August 14, 1937. They have one daughter, Mary, born October 30, 1940.

Walter Russell, born December, 1915, and died at birth.

Walter, the second son, was united in marriage to Miss Myrtle Jones of Edgerton, June 16, 1907. Mrs. Warren was born October 17, 1884. They have one son, Donovan, who was born May 26, 1921. He was married to Miss Eleanor Toner of Slayton November 28, 1945. Mrs. Warren was born July 13, 1927. They have one daughter, Kathleen Ann, born November 7, 1946. Both Walter and Don still live on the old home place.

Winnie married J. Pinkerton Squire of Aberdeen, South Dakota, November 28, 1910. They had five children: Vincent Warren, born August 13, 1912. He married Myrtle Hunziker of Cornell, Wisconsin, June 3, 1939. They have two children: Richard Guy, October 28, 1942; and Mary Beth, November 17, 1945. They live in Cornell.

Maurice LeRoy, born January 16, 1915. He was in the navy for four years; Sr. Lieut. of Submarines in Pacific. He won The Dolphin, combat pin, Bronze Star. He lives in Chicago, Illinois.

Mildred Winnifred born May 19, 1917—a registered nurse and dietitian. She married Chester A. Smith, December 20, 1941. He was in the Adjutant General Dept. and served in the European sector.

John Pinkerton, born August 17, 1923, and married Jeanne C. LaSalle, August 25, 1943. He was a flight officer navigator in the U. S. Army. He is now attending the University of Minnesota.

Carol Joy Squire, born December 25, 1926, is a junior at the University of Minnesota.

J. Pinkerton Squire died in 1927. B. F. Warren died at Ely in 1925 at the age of sixty-nine. His wife, Lizzie, passed away in 1940. Ralph Warren and his wife retired from farming in 1944 and are now making their home at Pipestone. Their son, Arthur, has built up a fine home on what was part of the late B. F. Warren's holdings.

THE REUBEN WEE FAMILY

For over thirty years there has been a country store on the edge of Ellsborough township.

The store was started by A. O. Gravely. It was purchased several years ago by Reuben Wee, son of a former pastor of the Ellsborough church. In the last six years, Reuben has developed the place into a real market center with his general merchandise, stock, oil tanks, etc. He also handles poultry, cream and eggs and buys livestock. He is assisted by Russel Qualey.

Mr. Wee was united in marriage to Miss Inez Sether of Jackson, Minnesota, October 23, 1938. They have six children: Wayne, born September 30, 1939; Sharon, November 4, 1941; Dale, January 15, 1943; Reuben, Jr., January 11, 1944; Mark, May 25, 1945; and Bruce, November 6, 1946.

Mr. Wee attended the Montevideo Normal school and graduated from Augsburg college at Minneapolis. Mrs. Wee graduated from the Jackson Normal and the Minneapolis Business college.

THE R. E. YORK FAMILY

The R. E. York family came to eastern Murray county in the spring of 1918. Their three oldest children, Ruth, Gladys, and Eunice, graduated from the Westbrook High School during their residence there. In the fall of 1930, they bought the old Prahm farm east of town and became residents of the Lake Wilson community. Here the other four children: Rex, Rachel, Don, and Jay completed their high school education. All four of the girls are graduates of the St. Cloud Teachers' College and have taught in the rural and graded schools of southwestern Minnesota.

In 1932, Ruth was married to Courtney W. Potter of St. Cloud. They have four children: Terry, Muriel, Rose Marie, and Linda June.

Gladys married Maynard Dahms of Walnut Grove, Minnesota, in 1934, and they have three children: Alan, Dahna, and Mary Margaret.

Eunice was married to Francis J. Anderson of Chanarambie township in 1938. They have two children, Nancy and Byron.

Rachel, the youngest daughter, married Earl G. Heding of Minneapolis, August 24, 1946.

Rex married Ruth Michaelson of Glenwood, Iowa, in 1940, and to this union was born one daughter, Jacquelyn.

Don married Marjorie Ann Murray of Lone Pine, Montana, February 14, 1946, and since his discharge has been operating the home place in which he will be assisted by Jay. All three of the boys enlisted in World War II and saw service in the Pacific area—Rex and Jay in the Marines, and Don in the Navy, all in aviation.

Rex was first sent to Guadalcanal. The second time out he went to Guam and finally to Okinawa. He served $3\frac{1}{2}$ years, and made M. T. Sgt. in engineering. Since his discharge he has been employed by the Pacific Greyhound Company at Los Angeles.

Don, as A. O. M. 1/c was a member of a navy plane crew based in the Admiralty Group. He also served 3½ years. He was awarded the navy air medal.

Jay went to the service in 1943 and served about $2\frac{1}{2}$ years. He received radio training and was sent to Guam and later took part in the Iwa Jima battle as liaison man for his battalion and the planes on the carriers. Later he was sent to Tientsin, China, with the occupation forces.

Roy York was born in Tecumseh, Nebraska, in 1879. He was united in marriage to Miss Edith M. Banks in 1909. Mr. York has taken an active part in governmental affairs and agricultural development. He was director of the Westbrook Insurance Company, director of the Murray County Farm Bureau. He is a graduate of the state normal school at Peru, Indiana; member of the Minnesota legislature 1943-45. His father was a member of the Nebraska legislature in 1879.



The photographs in this book were from Chas. Smith and the collection of the late Martin Forrest, who for fifty years kept a photographic record of the happenings in this vicinity. The preparation of this little volume has been a work of real pleasure. It was the good fortune to know personally seventy-five per cent of the men whose names appear in the formation of the townships or whose names appear in the first census reports.

In books of this nature where so many names and dates appear errors are bound to creep in. An extra page could be pasted on the inside back cover which could be used for births, deaths, corrections, etc.









